



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry departs after speaking to reporters about the Ukraine crisis following his meetings with other foreign ministers in Paris, Wednesday, March 5, 2014. Russia is unlikely to pull back its military forces in Ukraine's Crimean peninsula, analysts and former Obama administration officials say, forcing the United States and Europe into a more limited strategy of trying to prevent President Vladimir Putin from making advances elsewhere in the former Soviet republic.

(AP Photo / Kevin Lamarque)

Michael R. Gordon
Steven Erlanger
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PARIS - An effort by the

United States to broker the first diplomatic meeting between Russia and Ukraine over the Crimea confronta-

tion failed Wednesday, but both U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and his Russian counterpart said there

would be more discussions in the days ahead. Their remarks left open the possibility of progress toward a

solution to de-escalate an East-West crisis reminiscent of the Cold War.

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CHAVEZ LEGACY CHALLENGED ON ANNIVERSARY

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FED: WINTER IS HOLDING BACK U.S. ECONOMY

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Chavez revolution challenged on anniversary

**FABIOLA SANCHEZ
FRANK BAJAK**

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela

(AP) — Venezuela marked

the anniversary of Hugo Chavez's death uneasily Wednesday with a mix of scattered street protests and solemn commemorations that reflected deep divisions in the nation he left behind.

Hundreds filed solemnly into the mausoleum containing Chavez's remains to pay respects to the combative, charismatic leader who transformed Venezuela during a 14-year reign,

nity leader in the poor 23 de Enero district of Caracas. "If he were still with us, it would have never gotten to this."

Desperation is growing, along with the length of the queues outside state-run markets that reflect the economy's downward spiral and helped trigger a protest wave in which at least 18 people have died by government count.

Small groups of anti-government protesters again blew horns and whistles and blocked avenues with garbage and other debris in Caracas' wealthier east

rade to honor Chavez, Maduro once again blamed "right-wing fascists" for the unrest. He also firmly rejected international attempts to mediate.

"OAS get out of here, now and forever!" Maduro said. Organization of American States' ambassadors were preparing to meet Thursday behind closed doors in Washington to consider Panama's request for an emergency meeting of foreign ministers.

The United States and Canada have criticized the Maduro government as assailing free speech in

spending fed inflation and his interventionist economic policies stifled local production of non-oil goods.

The government has encouraged devotion to the late president that is sometimes religious. One small chapel in the 23rd de Enero district is dedicated to St. Hugo Chavez.

Beatriz Ramirez, a 55-year-old teacher and lawyer, laid flowers in the chapel. "All I learned of geography, history, mathematics, economy, politics, culture I learned from my comandante," she said.

The opposition has strug-



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, from left, Operational Strategic Commander Gen. Vladimir Padrino Lopez, Bolivia's President Evo Morales and Cuba's President Raul Castro applaud during a military parade commemorating the one year anniversary of the death of Venezuela's former President Hugo Chavez in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, March 5, 2014. Maduro, the hand-picked successor of Chavez, organized 10 days of commemorative activities to mark the anniversary of Chavez's death at age 58. (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

championing its downtrodden, and President Nicolas Maduro oversaw a parade of Chavez loyalists.

Cuban President Raul Castro paid an early visit, laying a white flower on the late Venezuelan president's marble casket.

But while Chavez always said his socialist project would last decades, even some of his most fervent supporters have doubts about where it will go now. "When the head of household is absent, as we say around here, things start to get out of control," said Pablo Nieves, a commu-

early Wednesday, briefly causing traffic jams.

Maduro, the hand-picked successor of Chavez, organized 10 days of commemorative activities to mark the anniversary of the larger-than-life leader's death at age 58.

While not a national holiday, many schools and businesses were closed after a long Carnival weekend and traffic was light in the capital, with an unusually heavy presence of National Guard troops in wealthier districts.

In a forceful speech opening a civilian-military pa-

its crackdown on the nationwide demonstrations. Latin American neighbors such as Colombia and Brazil which could step in to mediate have refrained.

Maduro said some protest leaders were arrested in Caracas Wednesday with "weapons of war" including Molotov cocktails, steel cables and gunpowder, though he offered no details.

Chavez lifted a good share of the country's population above the poverty line by sharing the nation's oil export bounty, though critics said his generous social

gled to broaden its support and to overcome an elitist image — and has been criticized for not doing a better job of reaching out to the poor.

The government, meanwhile, has been harshly criticized by rights groups for letting menacing "collectives" of pistol-packing thugs on motorbikes join security forces in repressing protests.

More than 1,000 protesters have been detained in recent weeks and 72 people face charges, including eight members of the SEBIN political police.□

LATIN BRIEFS

Fla. man killed in Mexico resort city of Cancun

CANCUN, Mexico (AP) —

Mexican authorities are investigating the killing of a 22-year-old American man who was strangled in the Caribbean resort city of Cancun over the weekend. Quintana Roo state prosecutors said Tuesday that the body of the man from Kissimmee, Florida, was found on a dirt road Sunday in Punta Sam, a residential area north of downtown Cancun. They say that the night before, the man, his brother and two friends had gone to a bar in downtown Cancun. Prosecutors have detained the bar's owner and five employees for questioning. Authorities say the group arrived in Cancun on Friday from the United States. The U.S. Embassy said it could not immediately comment. □

In Argentina, teachers' strike delays school

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — Argentina's teachers are on strike after rejecting a 31 percent pay hike, delaying the first day of school for nearly 6 million children. The government wants to phase in that raise over 16 months, but with consumer prices rising at 55 percent on an annual basis, teachers say they'll be left far behind. They're insisting on much higher raises and a new round of pay talks in just six months if inflation doesn't slow down. Starting pay for many teachers in Argentina is just \$433 a month at the official exchange rate. Every other union in Argentina is watching closely, because their salary talks come next. Court workers, doctors and nurses and park guards also were on strike Wednesday for similar reasons. □

Senior UN envoy is threatened at gunpoint: report

SOMINI SENGUPTA

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UNITED NATIONS - A senior U.N. diplomat sent to Ukraine's Crimea region to assess the Russian military takeover there was threatened by armed men at gunpoint Wednesday a day after his arrival, and a journalist who witnessed the confrontation said the diplomat was aborting his mission.

The diplomat, Robert Serry, a U.N. veteran, was confronted by a group of 10-15 unidentified gunmen as he departed a meeting at a naval facility in the Crimea regional capital of Simferopol, according to an account of the incident provided by Jan Eliasson, the U.N. deputy secretary general, who spoke in a telephone conference from Kiev, the Ukraine capital. Eliasson said that when Serry refused, the gunmen surrounded his car, but he was allowed to go to a cafe to call Eliasson. The identities of the gunmen were not clear.

"He is in good shape physically. He is not kidnapped," Eliasson said.

He also said he hoped the mission would proceed unhindered. But a journalist for the ITV network, James Mates, who was traveling with Serry, said Serry was ending the trip. U.N. officials could not confirm Mates' account. Mates said police had broken through an angry crowd blockading the door of the cafe and had permitted Serry to get inside his car. Serry was formerly posted as the ambassador of The Netherlands in Kiev. He is the U.N. Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process.

Eliasson said he welcomed the move by the Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe to send monitors to Crimea to look into minority rights. The United Nations will dispatch the head of its human rights office, Ivan Simonovic, to lead a team in western and eastern Ukraine, including Crimea. □

At Press Time:

Efforts to broker Russia-Ukraine diplomacy stall

Continued from Front

Kerry and the Russian foreign minister, Sergey V. Lavrov, spoke separately to reporters after a meeting at France's Foreign Ministry, which Lavrov called "a long day of discussions on Ukraine." But U.S. efforts to arrange a direct meeting between

rov said, "Who is it? I didn't see anyone." Deshchysia, asked by reporters why he and Lavrov had not met, said: "Ask Lavrov."

Later at a news conference held at the U.S. ambassador's residence, Kerry sought to play down the failure of the Russian and Ukrainian foreign ministers to meet here, even though U.S. officials confirmed that

said.

He reiterated the West's demands that Russia pull back its forces from the Crimean Peninsula, the heavily Russian-populated region in southern Ukraine where the Kremlin seized control this past weekend. Earlier on Wednesday Kerry said that he regretted that Russia had not attended a morning meeting on

offering aid worth as much as \$15 billion over the next two years.

The offer came atop \$1 billion in U.S. loan guarantees to ease Ukraine's economic transition, announced by Kerry on Tuesday in Kiev, where he was visiting to reassure the interim Ukraine government and challenge Russia. Kerry and Deshchysia then flew



From left, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, French President Francois Hollande, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Italian Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, talk together during a break of a meeting at the Elysee Palace in Paris, Wednesday, March 5, 2014. Top diplomats from the West and Russia trying to find an end to the crisis in Ukraine are gathering in Paris on Wednesday as tensions simmered over the Russian military takeover of the strategic Crimean Peninsula.

(AP Photo/Alain Jocard)

Lavrov and the acting Ukrainian foreign minister, Andrii Deshchysia - who was in the same building but not the same room - did not happen, reflecting the tensions over Russia's refusal to recognize the interim government in Kiev. Lavrov told reporters that he and Kerry had agreed to continue discussions in the coming days to come "to see how best we can help stabilize, normalize the situation and overcome the crisis. The discussions will continue and that's it." Asked if he had met his Ukrainian counterpart, Lav-

rov said, "Who is it? I didn't see anyone."

"I had no expectation that today that kind of a meeting would take place," Kerry said.

He also said that new ideas for resolving the crisis had been put on the table and that he would be consulting with President Barack Obama about the ideas while Lavrov consulted with President Vladimir Putin of Russia. Further discussions on Ukraine, Kerry said, would be held in the days ahead.

"I would rather be where we are today than where we were yesterday," Kerry

said. Ukraine that was held by the United States, Britain and Ukraine at the U.S. ambassador's residence.

And William Hague, the British foreign secretary, said Wednesday morning that the group would try to "create other opportunities later today" for the Russian and Ukrainian foreign ministers to meet.

The swirl of frenetic diplomacy came as the European Union added a significant financial underpinning to the struggling Ukraine government in the midst of the crisis with Russia over Ukraine's future,

to Paris together.

Russia regards the interim government in Kiev, which took power after President Viktor Yanukovich fled last month, as illegitimate.

The standoff in Crimea, the former Soviet republic that is deeply intertwined with Russia economically, and the larger struggle over Ukraine are at the heart of these diplomatic and financial maneuvers.

The Russians have defended their actions in Crimea as a response to a request for aid from local citizens and from Yanukovich, the ousted president. □

Carnival, passengers in court over disabled ship

CURT ANDERSON

AP Legal Affairs Writer

MIAMI (AP) — About three dozen passengers who sailed on the ill-fated Carnival Triumph cruise ship that drifted at sea for days are hoping to collect thousands of dollars apiece as a result of lingering medical and mental problems they say were caused by their nightmarish experience.

Their lawsuit, the first to go to trial since the February 2013 cruise, is being vigorously defended by Miami-based Carnival Corp., which contends the passengers cannot show such problems as kidney stones, post-traumatic stress disorder and scratchy throats are linked to unsanitary conditions or the fire that disabled the engine. At stake is perhaps millions of dollars, as well as the industry's restrictive policy — printed on each ticket — that governs the kinds of lawsuits passengers

can file.

"Ships shouldn't catch fire in the middle of the sea for no reason," said Robert Peltz, a Miami maritime attorney not involved in the Triumph case.

Again and again during the three-week trial, Triumph passengers have told their story to Senior U.S. District Judge Donald Graham, who is hearing the case without a jury. Testimony is expected to wrap up this week, and Graham could decide whether the passengers deserve any damages at any time.

According to Carnival, at least nine other Triumph lawsuits are pending in South Florida federal court, including a proposed class-action that seeks to represent all of the roughly 3,000 passengers aboard the ship. Attorneys involved in the current trial say its outcome could affect what happens in these other



In this February, 2013 photo, the cruise ship Carnival Triumph is towed into Mobile Bay near Dauphin Island, Ala. About three dozen passengers aboard the ill-fated cruise liner have filed a lawsuit in Miami hoping to collect thousands of dollars as a result of lingering medical and mental issues they claim were caused by their nightmarish experience.

(AP Photo/Dave Martin)

cases, although the legal claims are somewhat different.

Carnival tickets require

lawsuits against the world's largest cruise line to be filed only in South Florida federal court. The tickets also state

that passengers agree they can't bring a class-action lawsuit, but some lawyers are challenging that based on negligence claims. The 893-foot (272-meter) Triumph left Galveston, Texas on Feb. 7, 2013, for a four-day cruise highlighted by a stop in Cozumel, Mexico. After departing Cozumel, a fire broke out at about 5 a.m. in the ship's engine room Feb. 10. It left the ship without engine power and most of its electricity, forcing passengers to endure human waste running down hallways, limited water supplies, noxious odors and extreme heat.

After about five days in the Gulf of Mexico, the ship was finally towed to Mobile, Alabama, and the weary, bedraggled passengers disembarked Feb. 14. Carnival sought to make amends by offering each passenger a \$500 check. □



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Washington issues first legal pot license

GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Washington (AP)

— Washington state issued its first legal marijuana business license Wednesday, launching a new phase in the state's ambitious effort to regulate a market that has been illegal for more than 75 years. Sean Green, who has operated medical marijuana dispensaries in Spokane and a Seattle suburb, proclaimed the document "beautiful" as it was handed to him at the state Liquor Control Board's meeting in Olympia. The license will allow him to grow 21,000 square feet (1,951 square meters) of cannabis at his Spokane

facility — the first pot that will be grown for sale under the highly taxed system approved by voters in 2012. "Cannabis prohibition is over," Green declared to applause from a room packed with his supporters. "I'm coming home with jobs, Spokane." Sales began Jan. 1 in Colorado, the only other state to legalize the recreational use of marijuana by adults over 21. But Colorado already had a regulated medical marijuana system and simply began by allowing medical dispensaries to sell recreational pot; Washington had no regulated medical system, and had to start from the

ground up. Washington's first pot shop is expected to open in June or July. The board expects to issue 334 retail licenses statewide. But even the issuance of the first license underscored the hurdles the industry continues to face. Pot remains illegal under U.S. federal law, and despite recent guidance from the U.S. Treasury and Justice Departments, banks continue to be wary of doing business with marijuana businesses. Just last week, Green said, he learned his bank was closing his account because of Kouchlock's connection to marijuana. □



Sean Green, seated right, is congratulated by Sean Fitzgerald, left, as Scott O'Neil looks on before Green is issued his new Washington state legal marijuana license Wednesday, March 5, 2014, in Olympia, Wash. Green, a medical marijuana dispensary operator from Spokane, was issued the producer-processor license under the state's recreational pot law at the Liquor Control Board meeting. (AP Photo/Elaine Thompson)

Defense:

Marathon suspect's remark humorous

BOSTON (AP) — Lawyers for Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev say a remark he made to his sister during a prison visit was meant to be funny and wasn't incriminating, as prosecutors have suggested. In court documents filed Wednesday, Tsarnaev's lawyers responded

to a claim by prosecutors that Tsarnaev made a remark "to his detriment." Neither side has revealed what Tsarnaev said. An FBI agent who was in the room because of special prison restrictions placed on Tsarnaev overheard it. Tsarnaev's lawyers say the comment was "jocular" or

"gently mocking" toward the security concerns and prison restrictions. They say it didn't relate to the charges against him. Tsarnaev faces the possibility of the death penalty in the April 15 bombing, which killed three people and injured more than 260. □

NYC mayor drops lawsuit over its anti-profiling law

JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City's new mayor said Wednesday the city will stop challenging a law making it easier to bring racial profiling cases against police, furthering his pledge to change the tenor of policing after an aggressive tactic touted by ex-Mayor Michael Bloomberg was heavily criticized. Mayor Bill de Blasio said the city is abandoning a lawsuit over the measure weeks after deciding to drop the city's appeal of a federal court order for changes to the New York Police Department's use of the stop and frisk tactic. In both cases, he reversed Bloomberg's positions on what he saw as public safety imperatives.

The decisions mark a sizable move toward resolving major court fights over the NYPD's practices, but a police union plans to press on with its own suit against the anti-profiling law, and some other significant cases remain open.

De Blasio campaigned on promises to improve relations between police and residents, particularly minorities, who complained of heavy-handed treatment. "There is absolutely no contradiction in protecting the public safety of New Yorkers and respecting their civil liberties. In fact, those two priorities must go hand-in-hand," de Blasio said in a statement Wednesday. Passed last summer over Bloomberg's veto, the anti-profiling law eases some legal standards for claims that stop and frisk or other techniques were used in a discriminatory way. The suits could seek only policy changes, not money.

The law reflected concerns about the NYPD's use of stop-and-frisk and its surveillance of Muslims. The spying was disclosed in stories by The Associated Press. Bloomberg vigorously defended the surveillance and stop and frisk as legal, needed and effective tools to keep the city safe, and he said the anti-profiling law would ensnare police in second-guessing and lawsuits. He sued the City Council, and police unions joined the fight.

The Patrolmen's Benevolent Association filed its own suit. President Patrick Lynch said Wednesday the rank-and-file officers' union would "continue the litigation to protect our police officers and the city from the effects of this misguided law." The union has argued the law would endanger officers by making them hesitant to use stop and frisk and other techniques. The city's chief lawyer, Zachary Carter, says the city will defend police officers who act according to the department's guidelines.

City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and the law's sponsors, Councilmen Brad Lander and Jumaane Williams, hailed de Blasio's decision to drop the suit, as did the Rev. Al Sharpton and other civil rights advocates. "This law — along with other steps the administration and the NYPD are taking — will help reverse the damage done," the Council members said in a statement. □

California: Netanyahu, Brown sign pro-business pact

MARTHA MENDOZA
AP National Writer
MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a swing through the Silicon Valley to meet with high-tech leaders and sign a pro-business agreement with Gov. Jerry Brown. During a meeting at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, the two

ings with President Barack Obama in Washington, D.C., on Monday and his appearance Tuesday at the Los Angeles premiere of a television documentary that features him. This is the first California visit from an Israeli prime minister since 2006, and Netanyahu planned stops at Stanford University, Apple Inc. in Cupertino, as well as

rorists in Gaza. He said the shipment would "rain death and destruction on Israeli civilians and our cities." "What this reveals is the true face of Iran," he said. "This regime must not be allowed to have nuclear weapons capability." He thanked Brown for divesting California's pensions from Iran.



California Gov. Jerry Brown, left, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, applaud former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz before the signing of an agreement to expand cooperation at the Computer History Museum Wednesday, March 5, 2014, in Mountain View, Calif. Netanyahu is visiting California, trading a focus on the geopolitics of the Middle East for a Hollywood screening and visits with Silicon Valley tech entrepreneurs.

(AP Photo/Eric Risberg)

emphasized their joint interests in cybersecurity, energy sources and water conservation, and suggested Israel — an arid country with a growing population — might be able to help California cope with its ongoing drought. "California doesn't need to have a water problem," Netanyahu said. "Israel has no water problems because we are the number one recyclers of waste water, we stop water leaks, we use drip irrigation and desalination." Brown said he would welcome their ideas. "Israel has demonstrated how efficient a country can be, and there is a great opportunity for collaboration," Brown said. Wednesday's visit follows Netanyahu's meet-

a meeting with WhatsApp co-founder Jan Koum, a Jewish Ukrainian immigrant who sold his company to Facebook Inc. for \$19 billion last month. The agreement the leaders signed follows on several decades of commitments from California and Israel to promote trade, research and economic development. "The best brains in the world are in Silicon Valley and Silicon Wadi," said Netanyahu, referring to Israel's tech startup region. And he asked Brown to help get direct flights between San Francisco and Tel Aviv. Netanyahu also took a moment to talk about the reports Wednesday of an Iranian arms shipment to the ter-

There are hundreds of Israeli firms working in partnership with California companies, and in Silicon Valley ties are particularly tight, with more than 150 Israeli startups based there, according to the consulate general of Israel in Los Angeles. In addition, the California Israel Chamber of Commerce has partnered with Facebook, Oracle Corp., Microsoft Corp., eBay Inc.'s PayPal and others. Joint Venture Silicon Valley President Russell Hancock said Silicon Valley has become a mandatory stop for state visitors; this year both the French and Haitian prime ministers have toured tech giants in the region. And he said the region has many interests in common with Israel. □

Facebook will delete posts created for illegal gun sales

MICHAEL VIRTANEN
Associated Press
ALBANY, New York (AP) — Under pressure from gun control advocates, Facebook agreed Wednesday to delete posts from users selling illegal guns or offering weapons for sale without background checks. A similar policy will be applied to Instagram, the company's photo-sharing network, Facebook said. The measures will be put into effect over the next few weeks and will apply worldwide at Facebook, which claims 1.3 billion active users.

"We will remove reported posts that explicitly indicate a specific attempt to evade or help others evade the law," the company said in a statement. New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman has been asking Facebook to adopt such restrictions, as have Mayors Against Illegal Guns, the group backed by former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and Moms Demand Action. Moms Demand Action collected more than 230,000 signatures on petitions calling on Facebook to act.

"Responsible social media sites know that it is in no one's interest for their sites to become the 21st-century black market in dangerous and illegal goods that place our families and communities at risk," Schneiderman said.

"I congratulate Facebook and Instagram for taking these simple, common-sense steps to protect the safety and security of their users, and encourage other social media sites to follow their lead."

Tom King, president of the New York affiliate of the National Rifle Association, acknowledged that Facebook is allowed to set its own rules but said he regards the new restrictions as "a kind of limit on our First Amendment rights."

Although his group, the New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, doesn't sell guns, he wondered whether it could be blocked if somebody reported the

organization's Facebook page.

"This is something that could greatly get out of control very quickly," King said.

New York has some of the nation's toughest gun laws. It requires a background check for private gun sales and prohibits sales of some popular firearms, such as the AR-15 rifle.

Under the new policy, Facebook would allow a user in Texas to list an AR-15 for sale, since the gun is legal there, as long as it wasn't offered for sale in states where the weapon is illegal. But the company would delete a similar post from someone in New York. It would also remove posts from any state in which a gun seller says a background check will be skipped, even if such checks aren't required where the seller lives.

"This is one of many areas where we face a difficult challenge balancing individuals' desire to express themselves on our services and recognizing that this speech may have consequences elsewhere," Facebook said.

The company already has systems in place to remove advertising that is false and deceptive, and it prohibits ads for illegal drugs, tobacco products and prescription drugs.

There's no way to know how many guns are sold via Facebook, because the transactions are actually completed offline, said John Feinblatt, chairman of Mayors Against Illegal Guns. But such sales have occurred.

In Kentucky, for example, federal authorities in February charged an Ohio man with illegally selling a 9 mm pistol to a Kentucky teenager in a transaction arranged through Facebook. In an online petition, Moms Demand Action warned that Facebook and Instagram could also be used to sell guns to convicted felons, domestic abusers or others barred under federal law from obtaining a firearm. □

US Financial Front:

Fed remarks winter storms holding back US economy

M. CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Federal Reserve survey shows severe weather held back economic growth in much of the U.S. from January through early February. Even so, conditions strengthened in most regions, thanks to slight gains in areas such as employment and commercial real estate. Eight of the Fed's 12 regions reported improved activity, according to the Beige Book survey released Wednesday. The improvement was depicted as "modest to moderate."

New York and Philadelphia, two regions hard hit by winter storms and freezing cold, reported a dip in activity attributed to the weather. Retail sales, including auto purchases, were depressed. So was manufacturing. Factories reported power outages and delayed deliveries of supplies.

The Beige Book is based on anecdotal reports from businesses and will be considered with other data when the Fed meets March 18-19. The summary and the individual reports from each of the 12 regions were sprinkled with references to the harsh weather much of the country has endured this winter.

The report said retail sales had weakened in many districts because of winter

storms. Nine districts — Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Richmond, Atlanta, Chicago, St. Louis and Dallas — reported that the severe weather had hurt factory production and manufacturing sales.

The report said the weather had caused power outages, disrupted supply chains and curtailed factory production schedules.

Travel and tourism were reported to be strong across most of the districts, with the heavy snowfalls ben-

efiting ski resorts in some parts of the country.

When the Fed meets later this month to consider the Beige Book, among other economic evidence, it will be the first meeting under the new Fed chair, Janet Yellen. Last month, Yellen succeeded Ben Bernanke, who stepped down after eight years as chairman.

The widespread expectation is that the Fed will continue paring the monthly bond purchases it has been making to try to keep

long-term loan rates low to support the economy.

In an appearance last week to deliver the Fed's twice-a-year economic report to Congress, Yellen said recent data have pointed to some weaker-than-expected gains in consumer spending and job growth.

She said the Fed will be watching to see whether the slowdown proves only a temporary blip caused by severe weather. Yellen said she was open to adjusting

the pace of the Fed's reductions if the economy should weaken.

A key piece of data likely to influence the March meeting will be the release Friday of the unemployment report for February. Two months of tepid job growth have raised concerns about whether the economy might be losing momentum.

In January, employers added 113,000 jobs after an even smaller gain of 75,000 in December. □



In this aerial photo taken earlier this week, paralyzed semitrailers fill up a truck stop in West Memphis, Ark. A Federal Reserve survey shows severe weather held back economic growth in much of the nation from January through early February.

(AP Photo/The Commercial Appeal, Mike Brown)

American service sector grew at slower pace in February

JOSH BOAK
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. service companies expanded more slowly in February as hiring levels declined in a cautionary sign for the economy coming out of winter.

The Institute for Supply Management said Wednesday that its service-sector index fell to 51.6 from 54 in January. Any reading above 50 indicates expansion.

But the harsh winter weather posed challenges.

The real estate, retail, hotel, food services and construction industries all con-

tracted last month. And a measure for hiring plunged 8.9 percentage points to 47.5, evidence that many companies shed workers. It raises concern that the February jobs report the government will release Friday could disappoint.

"Risk of a Friday shock has risen," concluded Ian Shepherdson, chief economist for Pantheon Macroeconomics.

The trade group's survey covers businesses that employ 90 percent of the workforce, including retail, construction, health care and financial services firms.

Anthony Nieves, head of ISM's services survey, said comments from businesses indicate that snow and freezing temperatures held back employment.

Several companies were "pulling the reins back," Nieves said.

Weather has come into play a bit.

Despite the downturn in employment, measures for new orders and production in the index both point to continued expansion.

"Economy still plugging along, but at a very slow rate of growth," said one firm interviewed for the sur-

vey.

Many recent economic indicators have pointed to weakening momentum. A survey by payroll processor ADP showed that private U.S. companies added slightly more jobs in February than in January, though harsh winter weather still weighed on hiring.

The government said the economy grew at a 2.4 percent annual rate in the October-December quarter, down sharply from an initial estimate of a 3.2 percent rate.

The service-sector survey often parallels consumer

spending, but that measure has recently become mixed due to higher home heating bills.

Consumer spending rose 0.4 percent in January after a 0.1 percent gain in December, according to the government.

But much of that increase came from spending on home heating, which surged at its fastest pace since October 2001.

U.S. manufacturing has started to recover from a winter that delayed shipments of raw materials and caused some assembly lines to stop. □



Land Commissioner candidate George P. Bush speaks during a visitation event while on the campaign trail at the ClayDesta building in Midland, Texas. (AP Photo/James Durbin)

George P. Bush begins a political career with win

**JAMIE STENGLE
WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press**

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — George P. Bush took the first step toward continuing his family's political dynasty Tuesday, shaking off an under-funded primary challenger and securing the Republican nomination for the little-known but powerful post of Texas land commissioner.

The 37-year-old Fort Worth attorney is the grandson of former President George H.W. Bush, nephew of former President and Texas Gov. George W. Bush, and son of ex-Florida Gov. Jeb Bush who is frequently mentioned as a possible Republican White House hopeful in 2016.

He's also a Spanish speaker whose mother Columba was born in Mexico and who Republican leaders statewide long have touted as key to wooing voters among Texas' booming Hispanic population.

"We don't have to change our conservative principles to win, we just need to change our tactics," said

Bush, who spoke English and Spanish to the crowd at his victory party at a Fort Worth Mexican restaurant. His mother was among the attendees.

He noted that his campaign traveled to numerous heavily Hispanic areas, including making several trips to the Texas-Mexico border.

Tuesday's result was never in doubt. There was no incumbent running and Bush used his American political-royalty surname to raise more than \$3.5 million while his opponent, East Texas businessman David Watts, could barely afford to travel the state.

Bush immediately becomes the overwhelming favorite in November against Democratic nominee and former El Paso Mayor John Cook. A Democrat hasn't captured statewide office in Texas in 20 years. The land commissioner administers Texas' vast, state-owned lands and mineral resources, and it's a post that can be a stepping stone to higher office. Lt. Gov. □

US agency demands recall data from GM

**TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer**

DETROIT (AP) — U.S. safety regulators are demanding that General Motors turn over reams of documents and other data showing what the company knew when about a dangerous ignition problem that has been linked to 13 car-crash deaths.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is investigating how GM handled the problem, which triggered the global recall of 1.6 million older-model compact cars. GM has acknowledged it knew of the ignition troubles a decade ago but didn't recall the cars until last month.

In a 27-page order sent to GM Tuesday, NHTSA demanded pictures, memos, electronic communications, engineering drawings and other data to answer 107 questions. The reply, which must be signed under oath by a company officer, is due on April 3. GM spokesman Alan Adler said Wednesday that the company is cooperating. NHTSA wants the documents to determine if GM delayed its response or withheld evidence. In either case, it could fine GM up to \$35 million. Automakers are required to inform NHTSA of safety defects within five days of discovering them. Such a fine would be a record for NHT-

SA, but essentially is pocket change for GM, which made \$3.8 billion last year. Included in the order is a series of questions about when GM discovered the ignition problem in 2004 and the identity of employees involved in finding and replicating it. The order asks what fixes GM considered "including the lead time required, costs and effectiveness of each of the solutions."

On Feb. 13, GM announced the recall of more than 780,000 Chevrolet Cobalts and Pontiac G5s (model years 2005-2007). Two weeks later it added 842,000 Saturn Ion compacts (2003-2007), and Chevrolet HHR SUVs and Pontiac Solstice and Saturn Sky sports cars (2006-2007). Facts surrounding the recall are embarrassing for GM and could scare away consumers. Since leaving a painful bankruptcy in 2009, GM has cut bureaucracy, improved vehicle quality and is quicker to recall cars when problems occur. However, its admission that recall procedures were lacking 10 years ago shows how the old culture can still haunt the automaker.

In an effort to reassure employees and customers, GM's new CEO Mary Barra on Tuesday promised an "unvarnished" internal investigation to figure out what happened and pre-

vent it from recurring.

"We want our customers to know that today's GM is committed to fixing this problem in a manner that earns their trust," GM's Adler said.

Even as NHTSA pressures GM for details, safety advocates say the agency bears some blame for the automaker's slow recall response. NHTSA said Wednesday in a statement that it's a data-driven agency "and we will take whatever action is appropriate based on where our findings lead us."

The maximum fine NHTSA can charge was more than doubled last year under legislation approved by Congress after Toyota unintended acceleration recalls. But critics say it still isn't enough to deter bad behavior. GM says a heavy key ring or jarring from rough roads can cause the ignition switch in the recalled vehicles to move out of the run position and shut off the engine and electrical power. That can knock out power-assisted brakes and steering and disable the front air bags. In the fatalities, the air bags did not inflate, but the engines did not shut off in all cases, GM said. It was unclear whether the ignition switches caused the crashes, or whether people died because the air bags didn't inflate. □



In this 2008 photo, the Chevy Cobalt moves on the assembly line at the Lordstown Assembly Plant in Lordstown, Ohio. The U.S. government's auto safety watchdog likely is looking into whether General Motors was slow to report problems that led to a massive small-car recall and 13 deaths.

(AP Photo/Ron Schwane)

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Pistorius' character questioned over other previous gun mishap

C. TORCHIA
GERALD IMRAY
Associated Press

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP) — A month before he fatally shot his girlfriend, Oscar Pistorius cajoled a friend into taking the blame when a gun was accidentally fired under the Johannesburg restaurant table where he and other friends were sitting, according to testimony Wednesday in the double-amputee runner's murder trial. "'Just say it was you. I don't want any tension around me,'" witness Kevin Lerena remembered Pistorius telling a friend. "'There's too much media hype around me.'"

The testimony by Lerena, a boxer, raises questions about the character of a man who insists he accidentally killed Reeve Steenkamp in his home in the early hours of Feb. 14 last year. Prosecutors allege he intentionally shot 29-year-old Steenkamp, a model and television personality, after a loud argument.

Lerena was the first witness in the globally watched trial, which started Monday, to allow himself to be broadcast on television under a judge's order allowing cameras into the courtroom but preserving the right of some witnesses not to be shown. The boxer wore a suit and leaned forward with an intent expression as he answered lawyers' questions.

His testimony about the restaurant shooting was a reminder of how 27-year-old Pistorius, who ran for South Africa in the 2012 Olympics, once commanded respect among his peers. The boxer described Pistorius as "an icon and a legend in sport" and said he sought advice from the runner about diet and running.

The episode occurred during a busy lunchtime at Tashas restaurant in the swank Melrose Arch area of Johannesburg in January 2013, and relates to three firearms-related charges against Pistorius, in addition to the murder charge. Pistorius pleaded not guilty to all four charges.

One friend, Darren Fresco, passed his gun to Pistorius under the table and told him that there was a bullet in the chamber, Lerena said. Then a shot went off, puncturing the floor near Lerena's foot, he said.

"There was just complete silence," said Lerena, who described being in shock and having blood where his toe was grazed in the incident. Then, he said, Pistorius apologized, saying: "Are you OK? Is everybody OK?" Before the restaurant management approached the table, Lerena said, Pistorius asked Fresco to say he was responsible for the gunshot.

Lerena said they paid the bill and left the restaurant and he never spoke about the incident. Two days after Pistorius shot Steenkamp, he said, he woke up to find over 100 missed calls on his telephone as media from around the world tried to contact him to ask about the gun incident. Chief defense lawyer Barry Roux attempted to establish it was noisy in the restaurant, which the manager testified was full with over 200 customers, and that Pistorius did not hear Fresco say the gun was "one-up" — or that there was a bullet in the chamber — when he passed it. □

Tymoshenko:

West must stop Russian aggression

MARIA DANILOVA
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Yulia Tymoshenko, Ukraine's former prime minister, urged the West on Wednesday to ramp up pressure on Russia to force it to withdraw troops from Crimea.

In an interview with The Associated Press two weeks after she was released from jail, Tymoshenko, 53, said the United States and Britain must engage direct-

Russian troops are pointing guns at its soldiers.

"It is up to them (the U.S. and the UK) to choose the methods to stop the aggressor. But they must do it immediately," Tymoshenko said at her office in downtown Kiev. The West must do "everything that will stop the aggressor. Period." Tymoshenko spent two-and-a-half years in jail on charges of abuse of office that the West condemned

ter than two weeks ago. That's when Tymoshenko appeared on a stage in a large protest camp in the center of Kiev, sitting in a wheel chair and looking pale and worn out.

Tymoshenko called for a quick signing of a political and economic treaty with the European Union. When Yanukovich shelved it, that promoted the mass protests in Kiev that eventually led him to flee the country



Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko poses for a photo during an interview with the Associated Press in Kiev, Ukraine, Wednesday, March 5, 2014. Tymoshenko says the West must force Russia to withdraw troops from the Crimean peninsula and that Ukraine should not agree to any compromises with Russia.

(AP Photo / Emilio Morenatti)

ly with Russia and use "the most powerful tools" to ensure that Russian troops leave the Crimean Peninsula, which they have been occupying for nearly a week after the ouster of pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich.

Tymoshenko said that as the signatories of a 1994 treaty, which guarantees Ukraine's security in exchange for it giving up its Soviet-era nuclear weapons, the U.S. and Britain must now deal directly with Russia. She said Ukraine cannot enter any negotiations with Moscow while

as politically motivated. During the interview, she refused to say if she plans to enter Ukraine's May 25 presidential election. Although she now holds no formal post, she is believed to wield significant political influence since her closest ally, Oleksandr Turchynov, is the acting president.

Tymoshenko, who suffers from a back condition, walked slowly leaning on walking aids. But clad in an elegant grey jacket with her blond braid wrapped around her head in her trademark peasant style, she looked much bet-

ter for Russia last month.

Once the Russia-Ukraine standoff is over, Russia's Black Sea Fleet, which is currently based in Crimea as part of a leasing agreement, must leave, said Tymoshenko. "Today it is obvious that basically the Black Sea fleet has become the source of a war ... a ground for seizing our state," she said. Tymoshenko added that Ukraine must not make any compromises to appease Russia. "We believe that the aggressor must leave without any conditions," she told AP. □

3 Persian Gulf states pull ambassadors from Qatar

DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK
© 2014 New York Times

CAIRO - Growing tensions between Qatar and the neighboring Persian Gulf monarchies erupted in a diplomatic rift Wednesday when Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain withdrew their ambassadors from Doha over its continued support of the Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamists around the region.

The concerted attempt to isolate and punish Qatar was an extraordinary rebuke to its strategy of aligning itself with moderate Islamists across the region in the hope of extending its influence amid the Arab Spring revolts. Many analysts in the region called it a comeuppance for tiny Qatar's attempt to punch above its weight in the arena of international politics that always irked its neigh-

bors, especially the Saudis. That bet had appeared shrewd at the beginning of last year, with Brotherhood and allied Islamists ascendant in Egypt, Tunisia and Turkey, well positioned in Libya, and marching toward Damascus. But the other Gulf monarchies bridled, viewing both democracy and political Islam as dual threats to their power. And in recent months the gamble has turned sour,

with the military takeover in Cairo, a crackup in Istanbul, chaos in Libya and a Syrian stalemate. Michael Stephens, a researcher in Doha for the London-based Royal United Services Institute, said Qatar's neighbors viewed it as "this extremely rich child that has got all this money and all these big toys and wants to play, but doesn't know how to do it." For the West, the spat is the

latest unhelpful twist in the increasingly convoluted politics of the region. All four countries are Western allies, all are actively backing the Syrian rebels against President Bashar Assad, and all are Sunni Muslim states that see Shiite Iran as a regional rival. But the divisions within the Sunni Gulf states make it harder for the West to work with them as a group on common concerns like Syria and Iran. □

China vows to address stifling smog, terror threat

GILLIAN WONG
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China's government vowed to address long-festering complaints about choking smog while promising to crack down harder on the new threat of terrorism and promote unity among the

country's sometimes-restive ethnic minorities. In his first annual policy speech, Premier Li Keqiang also pledged to move more people into the middle class, cut government waste and push further with President Xi Jinping's signature campaign to fight the

rampant official corruption that has undermined public faith in the Communist Party. Li's speech at Wednesday's opening of China's annual ceremonial legislature comes as the government confronts ethnic unrest in the far western re-

gion of Xinjiang that has intensified over the past year. On Saturday, China saw the first big terror attack outside Xinjiang blamed on militants from that region — a slashing attack at a train station in Kunming that killed 29 people and wounded 143. In Beijing, the meeting's nearly 3,000 delegates from across the country observed a moment of silence for the victims of the attack as the session opened. Li briefly mentioned Saturday's attack in his speech, saying authorities would toughen its controls on public order and "crack down hard on violent crimes of terrorism."

Chen Fengxiang, a delegate from Hubei, said during the session that the government would adopt stronger security steps following the attack by assailants wielding large knives. "They lost their senses, and we must crack down harshly and take strict measures in preventing the violence,"

Chen said. Much of Li's report served to further define priorities that had been outlined after a party policy meeting in November, which included plans to make the world's second-largest economy more open and competitive. Li announced an official growth target of 7.5 percent for this year and pledged that Beijing will encourage competition, ease exchange rate controls and improve access to credit for productive businesses. Last year, the economy grew 7.7 percent. Li said the government will work harder to reduce pollution by shutting more coal-fired furnaces and controlling the tainting of rivers. He referred to the stifling smog that creeps over increasing areas of China and the fouling of the country's air, water and soil as "nature's red-light warning against the model of inefficient and blind development." □



From right, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee Yu Zhengsheng stand as they arrive for the opening session of the National People's Congress in Beijing's Great Hall of the People, China, Wednesday, March 5, 2014.

(AP Photo/Vincent Thian)

Israel says it seized Iranian rockets headed for Gaza

ISABEL KERSHNER
© 2014 New York Times

JERUSALEM - Israeli naval commandos intercepted and boarded a civilian ship in the southern Red Sea early Wednesday, preventing an attempt to smuggle an Iranian shipment of advanced rockets destined for Gaza, according to senior Israeli officials. The ship, identified as the Klos-C, was seized in international waters between

Eritrea and Sudan, approximately 1,000 miles from the port of Eilat, Israel's most southern point. It was carrying Syrian-manufactured M-302 rockets with a range of about 100 miles, according to Lt. Col. Peter Lerner, a spokesman for the Israeli military. The takeover took place without violence; Israeli officials said the crew of 17 cooperated with the Israelis and seemed unaware of the vessel's

contents. The ship, which was also carrying civilian cargo, was flying under a Panamanian flag. The ship is now being escorted to Eilat, where it is expected to arrive in the next few days. The Israeli military distributed video footage and photographs of rockets it said were found on board. The apparent intelligence and operational coup provided Israel's leaders with an opportunity to un-

derscore their arguments about the true nature of the Iranian regime at a time when the world powers are engaged in talks with Iran to curb its nuclear program. "At a time when it is talking to the major powers, Iran smiles and says all sorts of nice things, the same Iran is sending deadly weapons to terrorist organizations," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is currently

visiting the United States, said in a statement. Iran is doing so, he said, "via a ramified network of secret operations in order to send rockets, missiles and other deadly weapons that will be used to harm innocent citizens. This is the true Iran and this state cannot possess nuclear weapons. We will continue to do whatever is necessary in order to defend Israel's citizens." □

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Eurozone growth gained traction pre-Ukraine crisis

PAN PYLAS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A double dose of positive economic news Wednesday showed that the recovery of the 18-country eurozone pushed up a gear at the start of 2014 and in the period before the crisis in Ukraine escalated.

Since it emerged from its longest-ever recession last summer, the eurozone recovery has been muted, with a number of the countries that use the euro hobbled by austerity measures their governments have taken to get their public finances into shape and allow them to return to financial markets to borrow money. The figures released Wednesday suggest growth is accelerating, to the likely relief of policymakers at the European Central Bank who have been mulling whether to do more to stimulate the recovery at the same time as trying to ward off the risk of deflation — a sustained fall in prices that can strangle growth.

Most notably, a survey from financial information company Markit suggested that economic growth in the eurozone accelerated to a 32-month high in February, largely on the back of the services sector and strong growth in Germany, Europe's largest economy. And in a sign that Europe's indebted countries may be over the worst, Markit found that Spain is enjoying its best quarter in seven years, while Italy is growing at a near 3-year high.

Markit's composite purchasing managers index — a broad gauge of business

sentiment — rose to 53.3 points in February. That was up from the initial estimate of 52.7 and ahead of January's 52.9. Anything above 50 indicates growth.

"The survey suggests the region is on course to grow by 0.4-0.5 percent in the first quarter, which would be its best performance for three years," said Markit's chief economist Chris Williamson.

In the final quarter of 2013, the eurozone grew by a quarterly 0.3 percent, which equates to an annualized rate of around 1.2 percent. Further good news came from Eurostat, the EU's statistics agency, which revealed that retail sales in the eurozone rose by a monthly rate of 1.6 percent in January, more than offsetting the previous month's 1.3 percent decline, and double the consensus in financial markets. The figures pre-dated the escalation of the crisis in Ukraine and the potential knock to confidence. The

crisis, which has seen Russia effectively take control of the Crimea Peninsula, has raised the specter of tit-for-tat sanctions between the U.S. and EU on one side and Moscow on the other, potentially weighing on

growth.

"At a time when the economic outlook is already highly uncertain, the Ukraine crisis is perhaps another reminder to European policymakers that they cannot rely on an

unambiguously favorable international environment to sustain and strengthen the nascent recovery in the region," said Jonathan Loynes, chief European economist at Capital Economics. □



EU Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs Olli Rehn makes a phone call at the European Council building in Brussels. Economic growth across Europe is expected to be slightly stronger this year as the recovery gains ground. "The recovery in the European Union is gaining ground and spreading across countries although it remains modest," said Commissioner Olli Rehn, the bloc's top economic official. "The worst of the crisis may now be behind us."

(AP Photo/Geert Vanden Wijngaert)

Brooks denies covering up tabloid hacking

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Former News of the World editor Rebekah Brooks on Wednesday denied covering up the wide extent of phone hacking at the newspaper, but acknowledged paying a PR guru 1 million pounds "in part" to stop allegations against the tabloid's editors coming out in court.

Brooks testified that as chief executive of Rupert Murdoch's British newspaper division she brokered

the seven-figure settlement with publicist Max Clifford, partly to stop a lawsuit over the alleged hacking of his phone.

The newspaper feared private investigator Glenn Mulcaire, who was jailed in 2007 for illegal eavesdropping, would appear in court and name journalists who had allegedly instructed him to hack phones.

Brooks, who was cross-examined in the witness box at a London court, said the deal was to "protect the

company" because no one knew what Mulcaire might say.

She said Clifford also agreed to supply celebrity stories to the newspaper. Brooks said the News of the World's claim — repeated over several years — that hacking had been carried out only by Mulcaire and royal reporter Clive Goodman "was believed to be true at the time."

She acknowledged, however, that police had told her as early as 2006 that there could be more than

100 hacking victims.

The "rogue reporter" claim dissolved in 2011 when the scale of the newspaper's eavesdropping began to emerge.

Brooks and six other defendants deny charges of phone hacking and related wrongdoing.

Brooks says she did not know phone hacking was taking place when she edited the News of the World between 2000 and 2003. She then edited its sister newspaper, The Sun, until 2009. □

If the Very Rich Were Like Wine, 2013 Was a Vintage Year



The auction of Francis Bacon's "Three Studies of Lucian Freud" brings in \$142.4 million at Christie's in New York. The world's ultra-rich broke records in art and wine auctions in 2013, and only one in 25 families with \$30 million or more in assets reported losing net worth last year, according to the property management firm Knight Frank.

(Chang W. Lee/The New York Times)

JULIE CRESWELL

© 2014 New York Times

You guessed it: The rich are getting richer. And - shocker! - they are having a pretty good time spending their money.

The ultrarich shattered many records last year, buying notable works of art, shiny baubles and sleek toys. A rare 1967 Ferrari Spider went for \$27.5 million. Francis Bacon's "Three Studies of Lucien Freud" sold for \$142.4 million. And 12 bottles of 1978 Domain de la Romanée-Conti, described by one expert as "as close to perfect as wine gets," landed in someone's collection for a cool \$476,405.

The world's club of ultra-wealthy individuals, or those with \$30 million or more in net assets, added about 5,000 new members last year and now stands at around 167,000, according to the latest Wealth Report, an annual compendium of all things rich from Knight Frank, the property management firm.

Over the last decade, the

ranks of the über-rich have swelled by 59 percent, and the register of billionaires climbed 80 percent, to 1,682, according to Knight Frank's data.

And most of the world's 0.1 percenters had a pretty good year; three-quarters said their assets had increased. Only 4 percent said they wound up worth less, according to the survey, which polls 600 private bankers and wealth advisers who represent more than 23,000 clients.

While the United States, Japan and Germany are still home to more millionaires and billionaires than other countries, wealth is growing rapidly in the Middle East, Latin America, Australasia and Africa. By 2023, China is expected to have 322 billionaires, more than Britain, Russia, France and Switzerland combined, according to the report.

The United States is forecast to have 503 billionaires in 2023, up from the current 417, according to the report.

Looking for someplace

to park their wealth, the world's rich still prefer property. In commercial real estate, wealthy families and individuals are buying hotels, office towers in Brussels and retail properties in Poland.

And while the rich typically have 30 percent of their wealth in their main residence and second homes - say, a seaside escape or a ski chalet - demands for vineyards, especially those in France, have also been on the rise, the report notes. Among the biggest buyers? The Chinese.

The growing wealth in emerging economies has not gone unnoticed by global luxury brands. The chief executive of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars attributed much of the company's record performance last year to developing markets. Sales soared 17 percent in the Middle East and grew 11 percent in China, according to the report.

Porsche is expected to enter the Kenyan market this year.

But more money can mean

more problems for the newly rich in such places. Experts say they are increasingly looking for ways to protect their newfound wealth, whether from political instability or high taxes. As various countries vie to attract investors, the result has been a binge of "passport shopping."

A hotly debated proposal in Malta would allow the country to sell passports for 650,000 euros (\$893,000) with no residency requirement.

Spain and Portugal are offering residency in return for spending only limited time in the country. Experts expect Latvia and Estonia to follow suit.

"For any country short of capital, this is a quick way of getting hold of it," Nick Warr, the international head of wealth at Taylor Wessing, a law firm, said in the report.

Another popular - and controversial - route is investor visas, in which individuals are granted residency or citizenship in exchange for investment.

The United States, which limits the number of investor immigrant visas to 10,000 each year, granted 7,641 in 2012, the latest year for which data is available, the report said.

Eighty percent went to Chinese investors.

In Britain, which, unlike the United States, does not tax individuals on their reported global wealth, the number of investor visas rose by a quarter in the first three-quarters of 2013. Over the last five years, half of those visas went to Russian and Chinese investors.

And while London remains the hot spot for the world's wealthy, New York is forecast to surpass the British capital by 2024, thanks to its increasing importance to ultrawealthy Chinese, Russians and other Europeans.

If the wealthy made a mistake en masse last year, it was holding gold, which fell about 28 percent. A big chunk of the respondents in the survey said they would probably reduce their stake in the metal this year. □



Mark Lyttleton-Frances of Radisson® Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa Named 2013 Radisson General Manager of the Year!

PALM BEACH - Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa is proud to announce General Manager Mark Lyttleton-Frances was named the 2013 Radisson General Manager of the Year at Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group 2014 Radisson & Radisson Blu® Americas Business Conference held recently at the Radisson Blu Mall of America in Bloomington, MN.

"I am honored and humbled by this award," says Mark Lyttleton-Frances, general manager at Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa. "It means a great deal when you are recognized by your peers, and contin-

ues to inspire me to position Radisson Aruba as one of the leading health and wellness resorts in the Caribbean. This has been an incredible first year and I look forward to many more."

Under Mark's direction, Radisson Aruba also received the 2013 President's Award, the highest honor of recognition within Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group. The award recognizes the resort's incredible staff for their excellent commitment to guest engagement, extraordinary efforts in finding new strategies to achieve revenue and profit goals; and their overall performance, which reflects their

passion and dedication to the resort.

A native of South Africa, Mark has overseen luxury properties around the world for more than 20 years. He made a conscious decision to join the Radisson Aruba team in large part due to the company's support in creating lifestyle-oriented programming that truly offers today's traveler the most important option — choice. He is actively steering Radisson Aruba away from the traditional image of a Caribbean resort getaway by strategically introducing four elements — Rest & Relaxation, Nutrition & Diet, Rejuvenation, and

Exercise & Fitness — under which all programming, activities and concepts are incorporated. A certified personal trainer, Mark also leads adventures, fitness excursions, and other guest activities throughout the property and the island. He also created the General Manager's Challenge, an event that inspired his employees to a five kilometer run for charity, and to lose over 1,000 pounds collectively. The tropical oasis of the AAA Four Diamond Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa beckons from the sandy white expanse of Aruba's famed Palm Beach. The award-winning

15-acre resort, recently upgraded via a \$30 million renovation, is located 15 minutes from Queen Beatrix International Airport and a short walk from Aruba's shopping and dining center. With distinctive architecture, design, and sprawling prime grounds in a centralized location, the resort draws repeat leisure travelers and families, many of whom have gotten to know the staff personally. To visit Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa, and to meet Mark, please visit www.radisson.com/palm-beach-hotel-aruba-aruba for reservations and additional information. □

Willis, Joan, Tony and Christine love Fishes & More!

PALM BEACH - Willis and Joan Stuckless and Tony and Christine Balen from Ontario, Canada and New Foundland wrote a fabulous review after their dinner at Fishes & More Restaurant in the Arawak Garden, where several restaurants and a cocktail bar are forming a cozy ambiance complete with live music. On their third trip to the island, the two couples ordered the mixed seafood platter, the pork Parmesan and chicken broccoli and loved their choices, the service and the restaurant. They heard about Fishes & More from Stephan from Pauline's Apartments. Fab reviews are always very welcome anywhere, so this one is also greatly appreciated. Masha danki, Willis, Joan, Tony and Christine!



**Beauty
On The
Beach**

**Anna
Maria
Carusone**

She is from Casurta, a town close to Napoli, in Italy. It is her first time in Aruba and she is on her honeymoon.



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Marty and Deb Eskow honored at the Aruba Tropicana Resort



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very special couple whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Aruba Tropicana Resort and Casino, as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20 or more consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Marty and Mrs. Deb Eskow from Jackson NJ. Marty and Deb are loyal members of the Tropicana Resort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, casinos, great entertainment and being on Aruba and staying at the Tropicana is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Jacky Feliciano representing the Tropicana Resort.

New Winners & New Promotions at The Casino at The Radisson!



PALM BEACH - A new weekly promotional schedule has been introduced at the Casino at the Radisson incorporating some of the resort events into the happenings on the gaming floor.

For the upcoming Spring and Summer seasons the Little White Dress promotion will reward patrons with a



\$10 match play coupon good for table play, by simply presenting themselves at the Players Club dressed in white, any Monday. On Tuesday the Biba Aruba after-party will feature hourly free play raffles in the casino, from 6pm to midnight. The Casino at the Radis-

son will continue to offer its popular Mega Bingo on Saturdays & Sundays and its entertaining Friday Freeze Out tournament, in the Poker Room. Pictured here Desire Duan, who hit a jackpot on one of the casino's G+Deluxe machines. She won with

the Red - White - Blue combination, and was elated with her Jackpot. During Saturday's Bingo, Georgina Kampf, hit a \$7,399.10 jackpot on the popular Betty Boop slot machine, which prompted her to say Boop-Oop-A-Doop to the camera! □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009



Catch your own dinner

A charter includes: captain, mate all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included.

You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com

Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.

Aruba



IMPORTANT TRAFFIC SIGNS

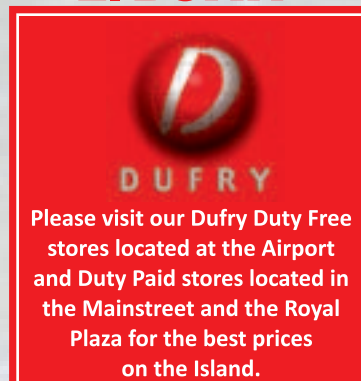
- One way road
- Right of way ahead
- All traffic prohibited
- No stopping or parking
- One way road
Enter only this side
- Right of way road
- End of right of way road
- Right of way at intersection
- Oncoming traffic has
right of way
- Stop. Right of way ahead
- Do not pass
- No Left turn
- No Right turn



1. Promenade



2. DUFY





Ukraine beats U.S. 2-0 in friendly

MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS

Associated Press

LARNACA, Cyprus (AP) —

Ukraine's national football team gave its troubled country something to cheer about on Wednesday when it beat the United States 2-0 in an international friendly.

The match had been overshadowed by the turmoil in Ukraine and its players said before the game that they were dedicating it to their people back home. The friendly was shifted from Kharkiv to Cyprus due to the political protests that have followed Russia's military intervention in Ukraine. Andriy Yarmolenko scored in the 12th minute and Marko Devic in the 68th as Ukraine exposed the shaky American central defense of Oguchi Onyewu and Anthony Brooks.

Ukraine coach Mykhailo Fomenko said the troubles at home were on his players' minds but he was satisfied with the result.

"Of course we do it for our supporters, for our country," Fomenko said. "I asked (the players) to make our people happy, we had to show that we're all united."

U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann said his team's thoughts go out to the Ukrainian people.

"This whole build-up you feel for that country, you feel for that nation and there's nothing more than



Ukraine's Artem Fedets'kyy, left, fights for the ball with Fabian Johnson of the U.S. during an international friendly soccer match at Antonis Papadopoulos stadium in southern city of Larnaca, Cyprus, Wednesday, March 5, 2014.

wishing them well and to solve these issues peacefully, this is certainly what we wish them, what we pray for them," Klinsmann said.

Before kickoff, Ukraine players linked arms on shoulders during their national anthem and both teams bowed their heads for a moment's silence for victims of the violence in Ukraine. A banner in the stands read "Ukraine is Undivided!" on the top and "One Country — One Team!" on the bottom.

The crowd of 1,573 at Papadopoulos Stadium, which has a capacity of about 10,000, was so small that players could be heard talking with each other during the game. Ukrainian fans sang their nation's anthem in the final moments.

"Our country is facing difficult times now, we must support our team and our country," said Oleg Ivanovskiy a fan from Kiev currently residing in Larnaca. "Ukraine lives and will live. This friendly match is important for us to show the friendship between the U.S. and Ukraine. The friendship between the two countries is more important than the score."

After the match, some Ukrainian fans broke into a chant of "No war in Ukraine!"

Associated Press

Continued on Page 22



Canada goaltender Roberto Luongo stretches before the men's semifinal ice hockey game against the USA at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Friday, Feb. 21, 2014, in Sochi, Russia.

Associated Press

Luongo sent to Florida on busy NHL trading day

IRA PODELL

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Several big-name NHL players were on the move on Tuesday, 24 hours before the trade deadline, including star goaltender Roberto Luongo, who was ushered out of Vancouver and sent back to Florida eight years after he was

sent packing.

The Panthers, on their way to missing the playoffs for the 13th time in 14 seasons, dealt goalie Jacob Markstrom and forward Shawn Matthias to the Canucks for Luongo and forward Steven Anthony.

Continued on Page 20

Woods feeling better and ready to play Doral

By DOUG FERGUSON

DORAL, Fla. (AP) — The only tools Tiger Woods used Wednesday at Doral were wedges, a putter and a pair of gold scissors.

Three days after he withdrew in the middle of the final round at the Honda Classic with lower back pain, Woods returned to work at the Cadillac Championship by saying he feels better after a few days of constant treatment, and that he was good enough to try to defend his title.

He just won't be playing the new Blue Monster until the opening round Thursday. Still being cautious about back spasms, Woods only walked 18 holes to chip, putt and study a course that is entirely different from the one where he has won four times.

As for the scissors?

That was for the ceremonial opening of the Tiger Woods Villa at Trump National Doral.

Woods playing Doral was not a big surprise. The last time he dealt with back spasms in the final round

was at The Barclays last August (he tied for second), and he played the following week outside Boston.

Even so, it was the second time in 10 tournaments that Woods experience back pain during a round. It was the fourth time in five years that he withdrew in the middle of a round because of injury. For a guy with four surgeries on his left knee, the focus has shifted to his lower back.

"I think we have to take a more global look at it, absolutely, because it comes and goes," Woods said.

"We've got to make sure that we do preventative things to make sure that it doesn't happen and adjust certain things, whether it's swing, lifting, whatever it may be. You have to make certain adjustments. We've done that throughout my entire career, and this is no different."

His health is only part of the drama at Doral.

The lone applause at the end of a 20-minute press conference came from Donald Trump, who took



Tiger Woods chips onto the green on the fifth hole during a practice round for the Cadillac Championship golf tournament, Wednesday, March 5, 2014, in Doral, Fla.

over the resort and whose presence is everywhere. The majority of the 69-man field at this World Golf Championship is gearing up for the Masters next month. And at stake this week is a possible change atop the world ranking.

Woods returned to No. 1 nearly one year ago when he won at Bay Hill. Now, it's Masters champion Adam Scott who has a mathematical chance of being No. 1 for the first time in his career provided he wins

this week.

"It would be a dream come true to make it to that point, but it's not necessarily probable, either," Scott said. "If you look at stats and numbers, there's no reason why I'm just going to roll out and win this week. But there's great motivation for me to do that." The motivation for Woods is to complete 72 holes without injury. It's being fit for the Masters, his next chance to end a five-year drought in the majors.

"It's been a long couple days of just treatments non-stop, trying to get everything calmed down," he said. "First of all, get all the inflammation out and from there, getting the firing sequence right again, getting everything firing in the proper sequence."

He did hit balls Tuesday at his home in Jupiter Island, no shot longer than 60 yards, mainly an attempt to make sure he kept the feel with his hands on a golf club. □

Zvonareva optimistic despite loss at Indian Wells

JIM SHORT

Associated Press

INDIAN WELLS, California (AP) — Vera Zvonareva

lost to China's Peng Shuai in the first round of the BNP Paribas Open on Wednesday — and found a reason to be optimistic.

"It was a tough match," Zvonareva said after the 4-6, 6-0, 7-5 loss that dropped the Russian to 1-3 this season. "I took a little risk in the last game because I had to and unfortunately it didn't work out for me. I made a couple of mistakes and I think that helped her to break me in the last game. I think my game is better than it was in Australia, so I can't complain too much."

In Australia, where she lost

to Casey Dellacqua in the opening round of the Australian Open, Zvonareva was playing her first match since the London Olympics in August 2012. The 2009 Indian Wells champion sat out all of last year and had surgery to correct right shoulder problems that bothered her throughout 2012, when her ranking dropped from No. 7 to No. 98. Zvonareva, who will be 30 on Sept. 7, has college degrees in physical education and international economic relations, and she said there were times when she wondered if it might not be time to put tennis aside and pursue other interests. But she loves playing too much to quit as long as she feels she can return to the

level that had produced 12 singles and six doubles titles and made her No. 2 in the world in 2010.

"I have to keep working," said Zvonareva, who also is playing doubles in the tournament. "Any matches that I can get is great for me, either in singles or doubles or whatever. Playing out there against the top players in the world is how you're going to get your game back. You can practice as much as you want, but playing is different. I just need to get matches."

In other early matches on opening day of the 12-day, \$10.5 million event, Shelby Rogers was a 6-0, 6-4 winner over the Czech Republic's Petra Cetkovska; Lauren Davis beat Taiwan's



Yung-Jan Chan 6-4, 6-3; Serbia's Bojana Jovanovski topped Alison Riske 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; Germany's Annika Beck beat Switzerland's Stefanie Voegele 6-2, 2-6, 7-5; Austria's Yvonne Meusburger ousted the Czech Republic's Iveta Melzer 6-4, 6-2; and Belgium's Yanina

Wickmayer beat Slovakia's Anna Schmiedlova 3-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Silvia Soler-Espinoza of Spain also moved into the second round when wildcard entry Nadia Petrova of Russia retired due to a lower right leg injury at 1-1 in the opening set. □

Gionta's goal lifts Brodeur, Devils over Wings

The Associated Press

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP)

— Martin Brodeur made 20 saves in what might have been his last game with the Devils, and Stephen Gionta scored the tie-breaking goal with under 37 seconds left to lift New Jersey to a 4-3 victory over the Detroit Red Wings on Tuesday night.

NHL Capsules

Adam Henrique, Marek Zidlicky, and Travis Zajac also had goals for the Devils (27-23-13), who closed within one point of Detroit (28-21-12).

Johan Franzen, Brendan Smith and Todd Bertuzzi scored for the Red Wings against Brodeur, who has been the subject of trade rumors leading up to Wednesday's NHL dealing deadline.

Gionta put the Devils ahead for good when he tipped Mark Fayne's point shot past Jimmy Howard for the winning goal.

Howard finished with 25 saves.

BRUINS 4, PANTHERS 1

BOSTON (AP) — David Krejci scored three goals for



Florida Panthers left wing Tomas Fleischmann dives for the puck during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Boston Bruins in Boston, Tuesday, March 4, 2014.

Boston in a win over Florida, hours after the visiting Panthers made a series of deals to retool their lineup. Jarome Iginla also scored for the Bruins, who kept former Boston goalie Tim Thomas busy all night with

39 shots on goal. It was possibly Thomas' last game for the Panthers, who earlier Tuesday acquired veteran Roberto Luongo from Vancouver. Thomas allowed three goals before Krejci scored

in an empty net with 14 seconds left.

Boston backup goalie Chad Johnson had a much quieter night, facing 24 shots as the Bruins beat Florida for the seventh straight time. Johnson had

Associated Press

NHL trading day

Continued from Page 18

"We're getting a great goaltender, a proven commodity," Panthers general manager Dale Tallon said. "Jacob has got great upside but we needed to make a statement, and Luongo's numbers are terrific. He's already been in this community and is a very popular figure in the South Florida area."

Luongo is first in Panthers history in games played (317), single-season games played (75), career wins (108), single-season wins (35), and career shutouts (26). He also own single-season records for most saves, most minutes played, and consecutive scoreless minutes.

Luongo's acquisition could prompt the Panthers to trade veteran Tim Thomas before Wednesday's

deadline.

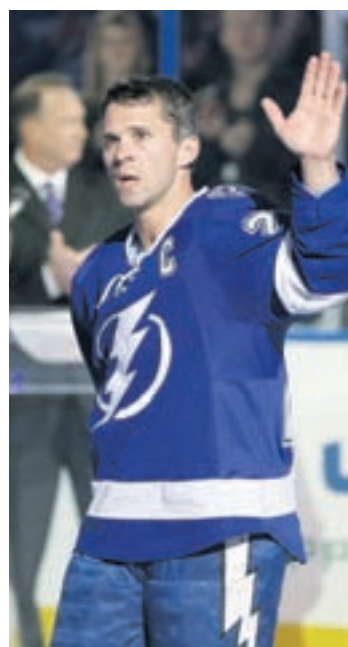
Anaheim sent goalie Viktor Fasth to Edmonton for a 2014 fifth-round draft pick and a 2015 third-round selection. Edmonton then traded veteran goalie Ilya Bryzgalov to Minnesota for a fourth-round draft pick this year.

The Wild might make a move for Jaroslav Halak, who was traded from St. Louis to Buffalo only last week, but could be flipped again.

New Jersey veteran Martin Brodeur is another option. The future Hall of Famer has a full no-trade clause that he can invoke.

The Panthers were already active Tuesday before acquiring Luongo, sending defenseman Mike Weaver to Montreal for a 2015 fifth-round draft pick.

Anaheim traded forward Dustin Penner to Washington for a fourth-round draft pick this year and then quickly moved that pick to Dallas for veteran defenseman Stephane Robidas.



In this Nov. 25, 2013 file photo, Tampa Bay Lightning right wing Martin St. Louis (26) waves to the fans during a celebration of his 1,000th game before an NHL hockey game against the New York Rangers, in Tampa, Fla. The New York Rangers and Tampa Bay Lightning are pulling off the first major deal on NHL trade deadline day, Wednesday, March 5, 2014, swapping captains Ryan Callahan and Martin St. Louis.

Associated Press

Robidas hasn't played since breaking his leg against Chicago on Nov. 29, but he has been participating extensively in practice.

The New York Islanders dealt coveted defenseman Andrew MacDonald to Philadelphia for a pair of draft picks and minor league center Matt Mangene.

New York also is expected to deal veteran forward Thomas Vanek, who was acquired earlier this season from Buffalo.

In other deals, Chicago acquired defensemen David Rundblad and Mathieu Brisebois from Phoenix for a second-round draft pick this year; Ottawa traded forward Jeff Costello to Vancouver for defenseman Patrick Mullen; and Phoenix received forwards Martin Erat and John Mitchell from Washington for forward Chris Brown, defenseman Rostislav Klesla and a fourth-round selection in the 2015 draft. □

a shutout until Florida defenseman Brian Campbell scored with 7:13 left.

BLUE JACKETS 4, STARS 2

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Artem Anisimov scored twice, including a late insurance goal, and Columbus held off a third-period rally to beat Dallas.

The Blue Jackets have won three in a row and are vying for only their second post-season appearance since joining the NHL in 2000. Columbus scored on the first shot of the game and bolted to a 3-0 first-period lead on goals by Boone Jenner, R.J. Umberger and Anisimov against backup Dan Ellis. Ellis was shaky early in making his first appearance since Feb. 1.

Sergei Bobrovsky made 31 saves, one on an open shot by Jamie Benn with 5 minutes left with the Blue Jackets clinging to a one-goal lead. Bobrovsky solidly tracked loose pucks near the crease the entire game to improve to 5-0-1 against Dallas.

Defensemen Alex Goligoski and Trevor Daley had goals early in the third period for the Stars.

PENGUINS 3, PREDATORS 1

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Matt Niskanen scored his second goal of the game 7:29 into the third period, and Pittsburgh beat Nashville to snap a three-game skid.

Niskanen and the Penguins helped ruin the return of Nashville goalie Pekka Rinne in his first game since Oct. 22 following an E. coli infection in his surgically repaired left hip.

Chris Kunitz scored a goal, and Sidney Crosby had three assists to add to his NHL-leading point total. The Penguins have not lost more than three straight this season.

Patric Hornqvist scored for Nashville, which has lost two consecutive games. Rinne made 16 saves.

AVALANCHE 4, BLACK-HAWKS 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Tyson Barrie scored a tiebreaking power-play goal with 7:10 left, and Colorado topped Chicago for its third straight win. □

NBA Capsules

Rockets bring James, Heat back to earth

The Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Dwight Howard had 22 points and 16 rebounds, James Harden added 21 points and the Houston Rockets held LeBron James in check Tuesday night in a 106-103 win over the Miami Heat. James had 22 points, one night after setting a club record with a career-best 61 against Charlotte. He acknowledged before the game that he was "extremely tired" and that he spent most of the day sleeping.

He had 19 points by half-time, but appeared to drag at times in the second half and spent the first half of the fourth quarter on the bench.

Still, the Heat cut their deficit to three when Michael Beasley hit a 3-pointer with 21.2 seconds left. Harden threw the ball away after that, and Howard accidentally hit James in the face when they both went up to try to grab a long pass.

James lay on the court holding his broken nose for a few seconds before getting up and slowly walking to the bench. He remained in the game after a time-

out, but missed a desperation 3-point attempt at the buzzer that would have tied it.

The four-time MVP has been wearing a protective mask to protect his broken nose.

Dwyane Wade had 24 points for the Heat after sitting out Monday night. Beasley also scored 24.

WARRIORS 98, PACERS 96
INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Klay Thompson made a 12-foot turnaround jumper with 0.6 seconds left, and Golden State held off Indiana to hand the Pacers only their fourth home loss this season.

Thompson scored 16 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter. Stephen Curry finished with 19 points for the Warriors, who have won five of six. It was their first win at Indiana in seven years.

David West led the Pacers with 27 points and Paul George added 26 as Indiana's five-game winning streak ended.

The Warriors were in control most of the night and led 92-79 with 6:23 to play. But the Pacers tied it at 94 with a 12-0 run. After Thompson put Golden State ahead



Los Angeles Clippers' Matt Barnes grabs Phoenix Suns' Ish Smith to prevent him from scoring during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, March 4, 2014, in Phoenix. The Clippers won 104-96.

Associated Press

again, George's long 3-pointer at the buzzer was short. George fell into the scorers' table, but no foul was called and the Pacers didn't complain.

THUNDER 125, 76ERS 92
OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Russell Westbrook had a triple-double in 21 minutes and Kevin Durant scored 42 points to help Oklahoma City defeat woe-filled Philadelphia for its third straight win.

Westbrook wrapped up his eighth career triple-double on a rebound with 4:55 left in the third quarter. He left the game moments later and did not return. He finished with 13 points, 10 rebounds and 14 assists.

Serge Ibaka and Reggie Jackson each scored 14 points and Perry Jones added 12 for the Thunder, who shot 57 percent from the field in their most lopsided victory of the season. James Anderson scored 20

for the 76ers, who lost their 15th in a row, their longest slide since a 15-game skid in 1994. Philadelphia shot just 34 percent.

Durant, who made 14 of 20 shots from the floor, did not play in the fourth quarter.

SPURS 122, CAVALIERS 101
CLEVELAND (AP) — Danny Green scored 24 points and San Antonio turned to its 3-point shooting to shake off a sluggish start in a victory over Cleveland.

Kawhi Leonard added 18 points, and Patty Mills and Boris Diaw had 16 apiece as the Spurs won their fourth straight. They did it with stars Tim Duncan and Tony Parker combining for just 14 points.

San Antonio, chasing Oklahoma City for the best record in the Western Conference, made 14 of 33 3-pointers. The Spurs trailed by 12 early in the second before making six straight 3s.

Kyrie Irving and Dion Waiters scored 24 each for the Cavs, who have lost nine straight to the Spurs. Spencer Hawes added 20 points and 13 rebounds for Cleveland.

CLIPPERS 104, SUNS 96

PHOENIX (AP) — Matt Barnes scored 18 of his season-high 28 points in the third quarter and Los Angeles beat Phoenix for its fifth victory in a row.

Barnes made 12 of his first 13 shots, scoring 16 points in the first 5:09 of the third quarter. Blake Griffin added 22 points and Darren Collison had 18 for Los Angeles.

DeAndre Jordan had 10 points and 17 rebounds and blocked Goran Dragic's layup try with the Suns still in it with 41 seconds to go.

P.J. Tucker scored 18 and Gerald Green 17 on 6-of-19 shooting for the Suns, who played without center Miles Plumlee (right knee sprain). They also lost guard Leandro Barbosa to a broken left hand in the first half.

PELICANS 132, LAKERS 125
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Anthony Davis had 28 points and 15 rebounds, Eric Gordon also scored 28 and New Orleans beat Los Angeles to snap an eight-game losing streak.

Brian Roberts scored 10 of his 19 points for New Orleans during a 1½-minute span in the fourth quarter. Tyreke Evans had 24 points and 11 assists, helping the Pelicans salvage the finale of a five-game road trip.

The win ended a string of nine straight road losses to the Lakers and was only the third for New Orleans in the last 18 meetings overall.

Pau Gasol had 29 points and 12 rebounds for the Lakers, who were attempting to match their longest winning streak of the season at three. The loss was their 27th in 35 games and dropped them back into sole possession of last place in the Western Conference. □

Nets sign Jason Collins to another 10-day contract

NEW YORK (AP) — Jason Collins' second stint with the Brooklyn Nets will last at least 10 more days.

The Nets signed Collins to a second 10-day contract on Wednesday, and he will be in uniform when they host the Memphis Grizzlies. Collins became the NBA's first openly gay player when he signed his first deal on Feb. 23. Teams can sign players to two 10-day contracts, and then have to sign them for the rest of the season if they want to keep them.

Collins has appeared in all five games since his return, with three points and five rebounds in 36 minutes. The 13-year veteran also played for the Nets from 2001-08. □



Brooklyn Nets' Jason Collins enters the game during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Chicago Bulls, Monday, March 3, 2014, in New York. The Nets won 96-80.

Associated Press

Froome hopes new probe will close doping era

GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

GENEVA (AP) — Tour de France champion Chris Froome wants an investigation into cycling's doping history to finally close an era dominated by Lance Armstrong.

Almost 18 months after Armstrong's seven Tour wins were wiped from the record, an independent panel created by the new International Cycling Union leadership has begun work to discover the extent of the sport's past problems.

"I hope that anyone who does have anything to contribute would get involved," Froome told The Associated Press in an interview on Tuesday.

The three-man Cycling Independent Reform Commission aims to investigate how doping happened from 1998-2013 and possible UCI complicity in helping Armstrong and his teams avoid scrutiny.



In this Wednesday, July 10, 2013 file photo, Chris Froome of Britain, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, strains in the last meters of the eleventh stage of the Tour de France cycling race, an individual time trial over 33 kilometers (20.6 miles) with start in Avranches and finish in Mont-Saint-Michel, western France.

Associated Press

"I am hoping that at the end of the day people will be able to say of it, 'Right, that was that era, we can now put that to bed and stop asking questions about it,'" Froome said.

Armstrong and former UCI presidents Hein Verbruggen and Pat McQuaid will be invited for confidential, closed-door interviews with the panel which is based at Lausanne, Switzerland.

None of the trio has committed publicly to meeting with the panel, which is chaired by Swiss politician and prosecutor Dick Marty. Froome said the panel could engage "not just necessarily those three, but anyone really who is part of that era and can contribute to resolving it."

"It's going to be more negative publicity for the sport. That's never good," Froome acknowledged.

The Team Sky leader, who made a winning return to racing last month at the

Tour of Oman, said he had not heard much talk about the commission among current riders, who must help restore the sport's credibility.

"There's a lot of really, really talented young riders coming through the system now that I believe in personally," Froome said. "These are going to be the guys carrying the torch going forward."

Froome will be 29 when he is scheduled to start defending his Tour title on July 5 in northern England — probably with 2012 winner Bradley Wiggins alongside him.

"I'm confident whoever is in there, we are going to have the strongest team possible," said Froome, whose frayed relationship with Wiggins was mended in the offseason. "He can do a lot of damage to the peloton. He's one of the best climbers in the world and we know his time trial-

ing ability."

Froome expects to follow the path both he and Wiggins followed to Tour success, competing in — and winning — stage-race preparations at the Tour de Romandie in Switzerland and Criterium de Dauphine in France.

"I think it would be crazy to really change things up too much," Froome said. "We found it has been a good system that has worked quite well for us."

Speaking at the Geneva Motor Show, on the sidelines of a Team Sky sponsor's event, Froome said extra work being a Tour champion was "a bit of a juggling act" with his training program.

Still, the Oman victory suggests he got the balance right.

"It just backs up that I have had a really good winter preparation," Froome said. "I'm where I need to be for the season coming up." □

Ukraine U.S.

Continued from Page 18

The opening goal came in the 12th minute when Andriy Yarmolenko pounced on the rebound after an initial shot by Denys Garmash was parried by goalkeeper Tim Howard.

A speedy run down the middle by substitute Marko Devic in the 68th caught the U.S. defense flatfooted and the Rubin Kazan forward scored at the second attempt when Howard again blocked the initial shot. "It's understandable that collectively, it's not clicking, it would be half a miracle if we would click," Klinsmann said of a defense that was playing together for the first time. "It was difficult for a lot of players to get into a rhythm." Klinsmann said the game offered him the chance to glean valuable information about individual players and the team to better prepare for the World Cup in Brazil.

"I think it would be totally wrong to criticize what went wrong," he said. "It's still a lot of work to be done

and a lot to build on." Ukraine could have scored in the 30th minute when Yarmolenko finished a

powerful run down the right wing with a low, hard shot that just missed the far post. Two minutes later, a de-

fense-splitting pass put Garmash through on the break, but he hesitated to shoot and allowed the U.S. defense to rush back, while his pass to an unmarked Roman Zozulya inside the box was ruled offside.

The Americans picked up their game in the second half and dictated the early pace, leading to a flurry of chances — starting in the 49th when an Alejandro Bedoya volley was blocked in front of goal.

A header from Jozy Altidore sailed just over the bar a couple of minutes later while a close-range effort by Clint Dempsey in the 53rd was well-smothered by Ukraine goalkeeper Andriy Pyatov.

Ukraine came back strongly later in the half and missed several good chances, including a Yarmolenko shot from 20 yards (meters) out in the 73rd that forced a good save from Howard. The Everton keeper almost got caught out of position in the 77th, when he slipped but managed to save another lobbed shot from Yarmolenko. □



Andriy Yarmolenko of Ukraine celebrates his goal against U.S. during an international friendly match at Antonis Papadopoulos stadium in southern city of Larnaca, Cyprus, Wednesday, March 5, 2014. The Ukrainians are facing the United States in a friendly in Cyprus, a match moved from Kharkiv, Ukraine, to Larnaca for security reasons.

Associated Press

Apple dials up effort to meld iPhone with cars

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
TOM KRISHER
AP Business Writers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Apple is accelerating the race to make smartphone applications easier and safer to use in cars.

Ferrari, Mercedes-Benz and Volvo are previewing Apple's iPhone technology for cars this week at an auto show in Geneva.

The partnerships give Apple an early lead over Google's loosely knit family of Android phones in a duel to make mobile applications more accessible while drivers are behind the wheel.

Apple's iOS mobile software and Google's Android operating system power most of the smartphones in the world.

Just two months ago, Google Inc. announced it is working with several major automakers to turn Android phones into an essential part of cars. Google hopes to finish work on its system for tethering Android phones to cars by the end of this year.

Apple Inc. announced its automobile ambitions nine months ago when it unveiled its "iOS in the Car" initiative — a reference to the operating system that powers the iPhone and iPad.

Now that the idea is moving closer to reality, Apple is renaming the technology "CarPlay."

The system announced Monday enables iPhones to plug into cars so drivers can call up maps, make calls and request music with voice commands or a touch on a vehicle's dashboard screen.

By making smartphones work more seamlessly with automobiles, both Apple and Google are hoping to immerse their services even deeper into peoples' lives. In doing so, the companies expect to make money by selling advertising, applications and upgrades on smartphones that will become even more indispensable.

"iPhone users always want their content at their finger-



tips and CarPlay lets drivers use their iPhone in the car with minimized distraction," said Greg Joswiak, Apple's vice president of iPhone and iOS product marketing.

Automakers are hoping vehicles that are compatible with the top-selling smartphones will be easier to sell to consumers who can't fathom living without the devices.

Cars of recent vintage increasingly feature electronics designed to cater to drivers' high-tech desires, but those systems still haven't attracted a widespread following. That has led more automakers to conclude that it makes sense to work directly with technology companies such as Apple and Google to turn their cars into smartphone extensions.

CarPlay requires Apple's latest mobile software, iOS 7, and an iPhone 5, 5C or 5S.

Ferrari is previewing CarPlay on its four-wheel-drive FF model. Volvo plans to feature the iPhone system in its redesigned Volvo XC90 sports utility vehicle. Mercedes-Benz isn't disclosing which models will get CarPlay, but expects both its S-Class large sedan and C-Class midsize sedan should be compatible with the system.

A long list of other automakers, including General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Honda, also are drawing up plans for CarPlay, according to Apple.

So far, GM, Honda, Hyundai and Audi have signed up for Google's "Open Au-

tomotive Alliance" for Android.

GM and Honda declined

to comment on their CarPlay plans.

Ford said it will deploy CarPlay as one of several options for making its cars work more smoothly with smartphones. The automaker already features a voice-control system called "Sync" made by Microsoft Corp. in some of its cars. Ford also offers its own touch-screen technology in its vehicles.

The different choices are designed to ensure "you don't have to make a \$30,000 decision about what car you're going to buy based on your \$200 smartphone," said Raj Nair, Ford's global product development chief. □

Review: Apple's iWork brings simplicity to docs

By ANICK JESDANUN
AP Technology Writer

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) —

Microsoft's Office is the go-to software package for creating and sharing documents, spreadsheets and presentations. Google's Docs has emerged as a good, free alternative for lightweight tasks. But what's often overlooked is Apple's iWork.

Last fall, the iWork applications for the Mac — Pages for word processing, Numbers for spreadsheets and Keynote for presentations — got their first major update since 2009 and now work better with iPhone and iPad versions. Apple also developed an online version that can work on Windows computers and let several people collaborate on a single document more easily.

Apple's iWork won't replace Office, and Google Docs is better in some ways. But after using iWork for a few months, I've come to appreciate the ways it simplifies work. It became my primary way of writing news stories at last week's Mobile World Congress wireless show in Barcelona, Spain.

The best part: iWork is free

with the purchase of new Apple devices (the Mac version with new Macs and the iOS apps with new iPhones or iPads). Once you get it, you can install iWork on older devices. Otherwise, each of the three apps costs \$20 for Macs and \$10 for mobile devices, or \$90 for everything. That's a one-time fee. To use Office on multiple devices, Microsoft charges \$100 a year.

USING IWORK ON DESKTOPS AND LAPTOPS:

With both Office and Google Docs, you primarily deal with a toolbox of options at the top. That's where you go to change fonts or adjust line spacing. With iWork, many of those options are moved to a palette on the right, which fills in the computer's horizontal screen much better. More importantly, those options change depending on context. For basic text, you get basic formatting options such as font and size. Insert a chart, and you can adjust the gap between columns. Drag and drop a photo onto a Pages document, and you get image-editing tools such as cropping and color ad-

justment. In a sense, the available features come to you, and you're invited to explore. With spreadsheets, the palette on the right side presents all 267 options for formulas and calculations, arranged in categories. Click on any one for a full description of what it does and how it works.

With Excel, I use no more than a half-dozen formulas, mostly because I don't know about the others or can't be bothered to figure out the syntax. With Numbers, I choose one from a list — let's say, "ROUND." I'm then shown where to enter the number to round and the number of decimal places to use.

Another neat feature: Select a column of numbers — let's say, 4, 8, 15, 16, 23 and 42. The app will automatically calculate the results using five of the most-used formulas — such as 108 for "SUM" and 18 for "AVERAGE."

USING IWORK ELSEWHERE:

Although some options and templates are missing from iPhones and iPads, Apple does a good job of keeping the iOS apps consistent with the Mac applications. □

Novartis and Roche fined in collusion case

DAVID JOLLY

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PARIS - Italian antitrust authorities Wednesday said they had fined two Swiss pharmaceutical companies, Novartis and Roche Holdings, a total of \$250 million for colluding to keep doctors from prescribing a relatively inexpensive eye treatment in favor of a more expensive drug. Authorities said the two companies had sought to steer doctors away from Avastin, an anti-cancer drug developed by Genentech that has been used for years to treat common eye problems. Instead, they said, the companies had tried to "channel demand toward the much more expensive drug Lucentis, through an artificial distinction between the two products." Novartis was fined 92 million euros and Roche 90.5 million euros, for a total of about \$250 million. The two companies disputed the findings, stressing that Avastin had never been approved for use in the human eye, and said they would contest the fines in court.

"The charges are unfounded," said Claudia Schmitt, a spokeswoman for Roche. "We will appeal the verdict."

Novartis said in a statement that the Italian decision "openly encourages and promotes the widespread unlicensed intravitreal use of Avastin contrary to the requirements of European and Italian regulatory law," and "undermines the European regulatory framework designed to protect patient safety."

A Lucentis injection costs about 900 euros, according to the antitrust authorities, while an off-label injection of Avastin costs 81 euros at most. The illegal agreement cost the Italian National Health Service more than 45 million euros in 2012, authorities said, and could have cost as much as 600 million euros a year in the future. □

Survey:

US companies add 139,000 jobs in February

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A private survey shows that U.S. companies added slightly more jobs in February than in the previous month, but harsh winter weather still weighed on hiring. Payroll processor ADP said Wednesday that businesses added 139,000 jobs last month, up from only 127,000 in January. But January's figure was revised sharply lower from an original estimate of 175,000. The data suggests that the government's jobs report for February, to be released Friday, will show only modest gains. Economists fore-

cast it will show that employers added 145,000 jobs last month. That is below the average gains of nearly 205,000 jobs a month in the first 11 months of last year. The ADP numbers cover only private businesses and often diverge from the government's more comprehensive report. In January and December its initial figures were much higher than the official count. The Labor Department said employers added 113,000 jobs in January and just 75,000 in December.

There were some positive signs in ADP's figures. Construction firms added 14,000 jobs, the third

straight month of steady gains.

But manufacturing added only 1,000 jobs and hiring by hotels, restaurants and entertainment companies slowed, the report found. Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, which helped compile the report, said that hiring should rebound once the weather improves.

Chilly temperatures and snowstorms caused many businesses to close last month and possibly delay hiring.

Some companies also built up large stockpiles of goods in the second half of last year, which means

they are likely ordering fewer products in the current quarter, slowing output.

"They're all temporary weights on growth, and we should see a pickup ... as we move into the spring and summer months," Zandi said. The unseasonably cold weather may have shaved 0.2 percentage points from the economy's growth rate in the January-March quarter, according to economists at IHS Global Insight. Growth is likely to come in at a 2 percent annual rate in the first three months of the year, Zandi said, down from 2.4 percent in the October-December quarter. □

Stocks settle down after wild swings on Ukraine

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Calm returned to the stock market Wednesday after two days of volatile trading. The Standard & Poor's 500 index traded within a range of about five points, or about a quarter of a percentage point for the whole day, before ending a fraction lower. Investors weighed a tepid hiring survey, some strong company earnings and falling oil prices.

Stocks plunged Monday, then surged to a record high on Tuesday as tensions in Ukraine flared, then eased.

"We're returning to normality," said John Manley, chief equity strategist at Wells Fargo Fund Management. "What the market now trades on is fundamentals, and the fundamentals are still good."

The S&P 500 index fell 0.10 point, or less than 0.1 percent, to 1,873.81. Its close on Tuesday of 1,873.91 was a record high.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 35.70 points, or 0.2 percent, to 16,360.18. The Nasdaq rose six points, or 0.1 percent, to 4,357.97. Manley expects the rally to remain intact as long as the Federal Reserve keeps up its support of the economy and companies can keep

increasing their earnings. The Fed is buying \$65 billion worth of bonds every month and isn't expected to raise short-term interest rates any time soon. Company earnings are forecast to climb 8.1 percent in the

Ukraine and the threat of economic sanctions against Russia appeared to recede.

Exxon Mobil fell \$2.72, or 2.8 percent, to \$93.80, making it one of the biggest decliners in the S&P 500. The

Payroll processor ADP said Wednesday that businesses added 139,000 jobs in February, up from 127,000 the month before, however January's figure was revised sharply lower from an original estimate of 175,000.



Specialist Brian Egan, foreground left, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Wednesday, March 5, 2014. Calm returned to the stock market Wednesday after two days of volatile trading.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

fourth quarter to a record \$28.49 per share for S&P 500 companies, according to S&P Capital IQ.

Energy stocks were the biggest losers Wednesday. They fell after the price of oil dropped for a second day as tensions eased in

company said it planned to cut its capital spending by 6 percent this year and that its production will rise 2 percent.

Stocks started the day fluctuating between small gains and small losses after a tepid report on hiring.

The ADP numbers cover only private businesses and often differ from the government's more comprehensive survey of the U.S. employment market. The Department of Labor releases its monthly report Friday. □

Jack Daniel's spikes Brown-Forman 3Q profit

BRUCE SCHREINER

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AP)

— Brown-Forman Corp.'s whiskey lineup, led by its flagship Jack Daniel's brand, stirred a 12 percent increase in third-quarter net income as the spirits maker reported broad sales gain in the U.S. and overseas.

The company behind such other brands as Southern Comfort, Finlandia and el Jimador beat Wall Street forecasts for the three-month period. It also raised its full-year earnings outlook.

"We delivered great top-and bottom-line results in the third quarter, continuing the momentum from the first half," said Brown-Forman CEO Paul Varga. "We believe our top-tier performance was due primarily to the global strength of the Jack Daniel's trademark," along with its brand innovations, its performance across various price levels and its "limited exposure to some of the emerging markets that have decelerated."

Overall, the company reported net income of \$177 million, or 82 cents per share, for the three months ending Jan. 31. That's up from \$157 million, or 73 cents per share, a year ago. Quarterly net sales rose 5 percent to nearly \$1.08 billion.

Analysts expected earnings of 75 cents per share on revenue of \$1.08 billion.

For the first nine months of the fiscal year, net sales for the entire Jack Daniel's brand increased 8 percent, when excluding currency swings, the company said Wednesday. It reported continued strong sales for Jack Daniel's Tennessee Honey.

The Louisville-based com-

pany's premium Woodford Reserve bourbon brand had strong double-digit net sales growth during the nine-month period. Its venerable Old Forester bourbon also posted double-digit growth, it said.

The company reported 3 percent growth in U.S. net sales on a constant-currency basis for the nine-month period. In developed markets outside the U.S., its net sales grew 5 percent for the nine months when excluding foreign currency swings. It reported double-digit growth in the United Kingdom, Japan and France,

per share, up from a range of \$2.80 to \$3 per share. Analysts expected \$2.96 per share for the year.

The performance among its brands was mixed during the nine-month period. Net sales for Finlandia vodka products rose 7 percent when excluding currency swings. Net sales for the



Bottles of Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey line the shelves of a liquor outlet, in Montpelier, Vt. Brown-Forman Corp.'s whiskey lineup, led by its flagship Jack Daniel's brand, stirred a 12 percent increase in third-quarter net income as the spirits maker reported broad sales gain in the U.S. and overseas, the company reported Wednesday, March 5, 2014.

(AP Photo/Toby Talbot)

pany's premium Woodford Reserve bourbon brand had strong double-digit net sales growth during the nine-month period. Its venerable Old Forester bourbon also posted double-digit growth, it said.

The company reported 3 percent growth in U.S. net

sales on a constant-currency basis for the nine-month period. In other markets, the company posted double-digit net sales gains in China, Brazil, Russia, Thailand, Turkey and India.

The company boosted its full-year forecast to a range of \$2.95 and \$3.05

along with high single-digit growth in Germany.

el Jimador tequila lineup dropped 5 percent on the same constant-currency basis, and sales for the Southern Comfort brand also were down 5 percent. Sales for Korbel Champagne rose 3 percent, while Canadian Mist sales slipped 1 percent. □

Top Executive Beth M. Jacob out at Target

ELIZABETH A. HARRIS

© 2014 New York Times

Target said Wednesday that its chief information officer had stepped down, the first high-level executive to depart after an enormous breach of customer data late last year that put a dent in profits. The company will hire an interim information officer while it searches for an outsider to replace Beth M. Jacob, Gregg Steinhafel, Target's chief executive, said in a statement.

"While we are still in the process of an ongoing investigation, we recognize that the information security environment is evolving rapidly," Steinhafel said. "To ensure that Target is well-positioned following the data breach we suffered last year, we are undertaking an overhaul of our information security and compliance structure and practices at Target." On Dec. 19, during the final days of the holiday shopping season, the company publicly confirmed that credit and debit card information for 40 million of its customers had been compromised. A few weeks later, the company announced that another batch of data on some 70 million customers had been stolen as well.

The company reported disappointing earnings last week and said that was partly because of a fall-off in sales and traffic after news of the data breach became public. The company's profit fell more than 40 percent during the fourth quarter over the same period the year before.

Steinhafel also said Wednesday that the company was working with the outside firm the Promontory Financial Group to help it "evaluate our technology, structure, processes and talent as a part of this transformation." The company will also be externally hiring a chief compliance officer, Steinhafel said. Jacob first joined Target in 1984 as an assistant buyer. She left the company for a time, and then returned in 2002. She had been vice president of Target Technology Services and chief information officer since 2008. □

Exxon to cut spending; sees production rising

NEW YORK (AP) — Exxon Mobil Corp. says it will cut capital spending by 6 percent this year and overall production will be flat.

The shares fell nearly 3 percent.

The nation's biggest oil company said Wednesday that it will spend \$39.8 billion on energy projects and other costs this year, down from \$42.5 billion last year.

Exxon said that barring acquisitions, annual spending will average less than \$37 billion from 2015 to 2017.

Production is expected to be the equivalent of 4 mil-

lion barrels of oil per day, the same as 2013 after excluding an expired deal in the United Arab Emirates and partial sale of a project in Iraq, the company said. In 2015 through 2017, production is expected to rise by about 100,000 barrels per day each year.

The company said production of liquids such as oil — more lucrative right now — would grow 2 percent this year, but the company is letting natural gas production ease in the U.S., where gas prices are low.

Executives made the comments during the compa-

ny's annual investor meeting in New York.

Analysts have criticized Big Oil for not boosting production enough. Energy companies face high costs in extracting new and harder-to-reach sources of oil and gas. Still, Exxon said that its exploration activities are continuing to find enough oil and gas reserves to more than replace the energy that it produces.

Irving, Texas-based Exxon expects to start production at a record 10 major projects this year, adding about 300,000 barrels a

day in new capacity. The new projects include a liquefied natural gas operation in Papua New Guinea and an offshore oil and gas platform in Russia. CEO Rex Tillerson said the projects would provide profitable new volume.

In the next few years, the company expects to boost production by about 1 million barrels per day from projects in Indonesia, Canada and elsewhere.

Exxon shares fell \$2.73, or 2.8 percent, to \$93.79. They began the day down 5 percent in 2014 after rising 17 percent in 2013. □

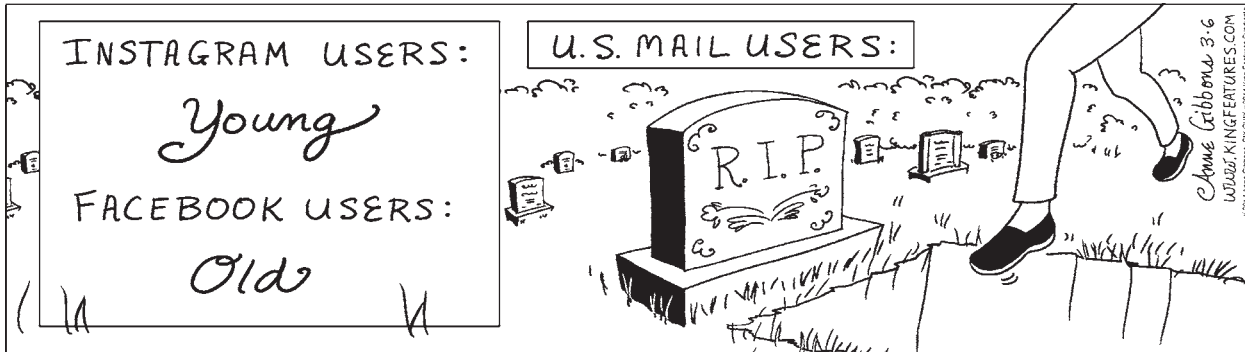
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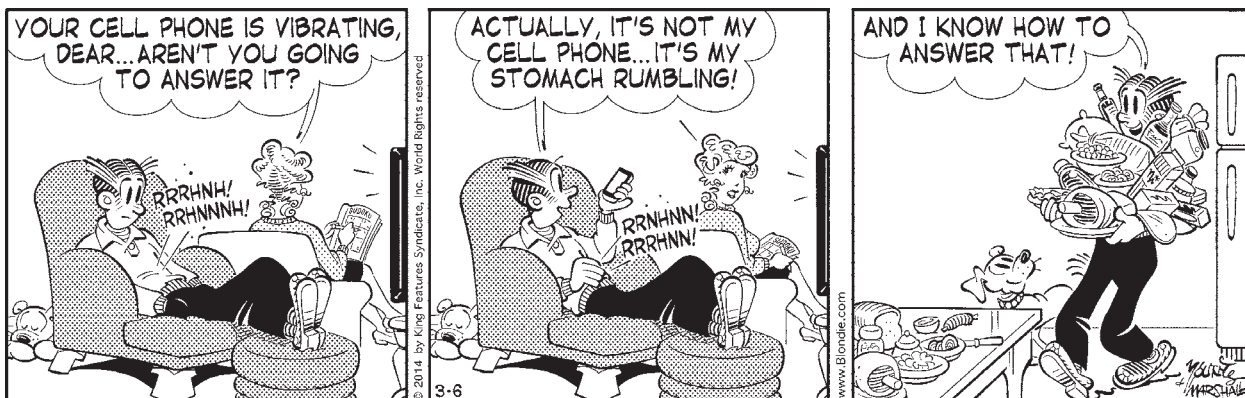
I FEEL SORT OF UNHAPPY... SORT OF UNSATISFIED... SORT OF UNSURE... SORT OF QUEASY... SORT OF... SORT OF... DARN!



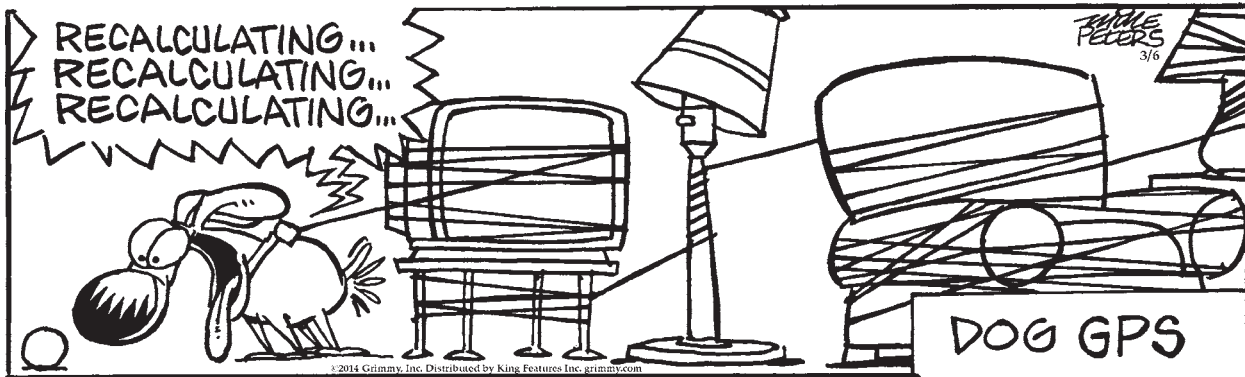
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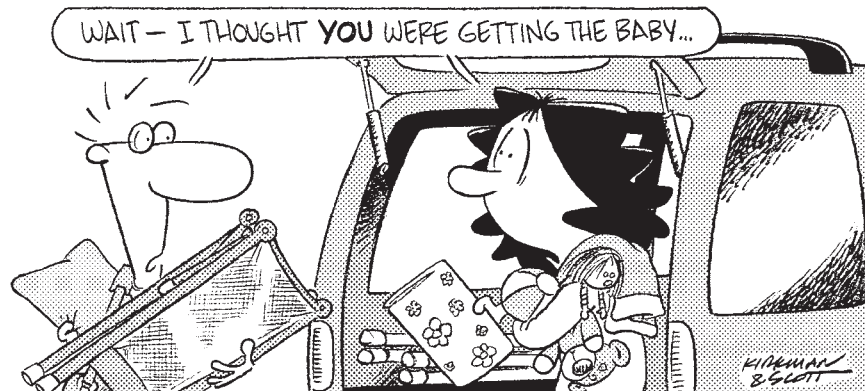
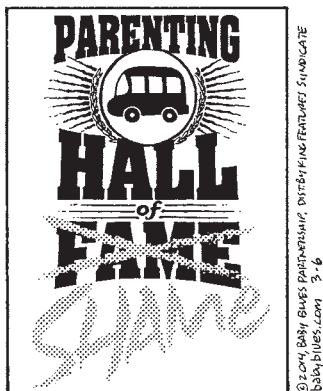
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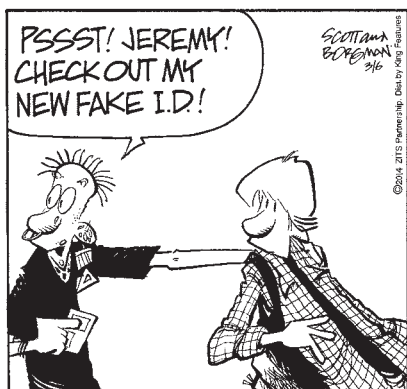
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	5		2		9			
				5	1			3
		2				6		
1	8							5
	9						3	
3							7	8
		7				2		
9			6	2				
			9		4		1	

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

7	4	6	5	9	8	3	1	2
9	8	3	6	2	1	7	5	4
5	1	2	7	3	4	6	8	9
8	3	1	9	7	6	4	2	5
4	6	9	2	8	5	1	7	3
2	5	7	4	1	3	9	6	8
3	2	8	1	4	7	5	9	6
6	7	4	8	5	9	2	3	1
1	9	5	3	6	2	8	4	7

ACROSS

- 1 ___ as a button
- 5 Wrench & saw
- 10 Alpha's follower
- 14 ___ house; realtor's event
- 15 Baby hooting bird
- 16 Large kitchen appliance
- 17 Actress Shelley
- 18 Late actor Christopher ___
- 19 Peruse
- 20 Perpetual
- 22 In an avid way
- 24 Hustle & bustle
- 25 Carrying a gun
- 26 Large family groups
- 29 Sons named for their dads: abbr.
- 30 ___ Peace Prize
- 34 Diane or Cheryl
- 35 Hired vehicle
- 36 Zodiac sign
- 37 ___ to Pieces"; Peter & Gordon hit
- 38 Guadalcanal heroes
- 40 VP ___ Quayle
- 41 Mel or José
- 43 Actor Hanks
- 44 Least popular chicken piece
- 45 Liberated
- 46 Plead
- 47 Helpful cues
- 48 Frolic about
- 50 Remain behind
- 51 Torahs
- 54 Struts about in a showy way
- 58 Hawaiian island
- 59 Lent a hand to
- 61 Spruce or pine
- 62 Songbird
- 63 Perfect
- 64 Like pricey hamburger
- 65 Stool or bench
- 66 Thickheaded
- 67 Three feet

DOWN

- 1 Nat King ___

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21			22		23			
24						25						
26	27	28			29			30	31	32	33	
34				35			36					
37			38			39			40			
41		42			43				44			
45					46				47			
48				49			50					
51	52	53					54			55	56	57
58				59		60			61			
62				63					64			
65				66					67			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/6/14

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

SHADE	UNDO	SNAG
NAVEL	SAID	TALE
ALIVE	URGE	ROLE
PODIATRY	SHAMES	
	SNIP	ASININE
METEOR	SCALD	
AVE	REBUT	LEAFY
YEAR	DAMON	DIRE
ASKEW	LURED	DEN
	CHEEP	PULSES
OPTIONS	MALI	
MORTAR	FULLNESS	
AREA	ICED	AGREE
HEAL	COLD	REGAL
ADDS	HOLY	DROLL

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3/6/14

- 39 Eggy drink
- 42 Relate in detail
- 44 Once each evening
- 46 Next to
- 47 Owns
- 49 Kilt pattern
- 50 Spoon for a soup server
- 51 Female pigs
- 52 Give a hoot
- 53 TV's Perlman
- 54 Aegean & Red
- 55 Zone
- 56 2014, for one
- 57 Put in the mail
- 60 Boy Scout group

Classifieds

RED/WEEK Resales
Marriott Surf Club
 2x2Br Platinum O.V. \$16Kpw
 3x2 Br Garden view \$15K pw
Marriott Ocean Club
 1 Br Platinum O.V. \$11,5K
 2 Br Platinum O.F. \$29K
 call: (297)562-0712
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

201447

RED/WEEK Resales
Divi Village
 Stu wk 5 Room # 8202 \$7K
 Aruba Divi Phoenix
 Std wk 8 Room # 105 \$7K
 Std wk 9 Room # 1204 \$7K
 call (297) 562-0712
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

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This spacious 4 bedroom property is located at the end of a cul-de-sac in North. It has enough space to build a pool or guest apartment. The garden is fully fenced-in and has nice a landscaped yard. The built-up area is 217m²/ 2321 sq.ft. including the covered back porch, land size 837m².

US\$ 334.269,-



Palm Beach 4-G
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www.arubahouses.com

RED/WEEK Resales
La Cabana Beach Resort
 1 bedroom week 11 and 12 room #414A
 (sun) pool/ocean view \$20K both weeks
Dutch Village
 1 br wk 10 room #27 \$5K
 info: (297)562-0712
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

201447

RED/WEEK Re-sales
Dutch Village
 Studio wk 9 room # 135 \$6K
 (33 weeks remain on the contract)
 (8 can be accelerated)
 call (297)562-0712
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

201447

TIMESHARE FOR SALE
Casa del Mar 1216
 Presidential 2 bedroom same room, over looking pool & ocean weeks 4 & 5 \$18.000 each / \$35.000 for both.
 E-mail: mjb123@earthlink.net
 Tel. 610-664-6620
 After April 5th

2021435

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Paradise Beach Villas
 weeks 9 & 10 1 bdrm , sleeps 4 pool /ocean, 2nd floor, phase 2 \$8000/wk
 or Rent 2015 \$1100/wk.
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jrcheev@gmail.com

201410

Time Share
Divi Village + Golf wk 8 L.G.
 Studio ocean view RM 3409, sun.
 All amenities \$3950. Also, floating wks Divi/ Dutch Village mid March to 12/15
 Studios start \$3200, 1BR \$3600, Local Until 2/19 565-9394
 E-mail: RMWJMW@AOL.COM
 508-651-0016

202289

FOR SALE
Divi Village OWNER SELLING
 C Bldg Elevator
 ocean /pool view
 week 8 - 3311 - 23 weeks \$11,200
 week 9 -3303-37 weeks \$17,999
mair72@optonline.net or
optymed@optonline.net

201430

FOR SALE
Casa del Mar / (deeded) Presidential Suits
 Weeks 7 & 8 Suit 1303
 2 bedr ocean /pool view maid service. Quick sale available. Asking \$50.000
 e-mail: aaccavallo@federalmtg.com
 In Aruba till 2/27
 US phone 2018914806

201437

FOR SALE
Condo in Gold Coast
 Every thing's included in this 2 br / 2 1/2 bath unit check in out now at www.arubarental.info or call 562-0735 free pick up

201409

FOR SALE
Caribbean Palm Village (deeded)
 E 107 first floor pool side (renovated)
 week 1 thru 5
 1 bedroom 2 bath \$5,500 p/week
 e-mail: np7300@roadrunner.com
 phone: USA 440-428-4631

202104

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Divi Phoenix Waterfront Villa
 week 8 ocean front
 2 bdr 3 baths sleeps 8 Unit
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 e-mail: jwhelan@mstct.com

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anthony@colettas.com
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 Units D103 C103

201425

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Aruba Beach Club all pool side
 wk 8 #223
 wk 9 # 135
 wk 10 #248
 9,000 each
 will discount multiple wks
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 USA 609 263 2365

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 weeks 9+10, 1411 and 1518 \$16,000 wk 9 \$21,000 wk 10 \$35,000 both.
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Dr. Dennert

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ORANJESTAD	582-4000
NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

PHARMACY

O'STAD: Maria Tel: 585-8145
 S. NICOLAS: Centro Medico Tel: 584-5794

INFORMATION	118
SETAR	582-2116
TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

CRUISESHIP

Mar. 6
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Adventure of the Seas

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American Airline	582-2700
Avianca	588-0059
Dutch Antilles	588-1900
Insel Air	588-9314
Jet Blue	588-2244
Spirit Airlines	582-7117
Tiara Air	588-4272
Venezolana	583-7674

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 Alcoholism & Drug Addiction,
 Anonymity guaranteed

FUNDACION

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 (FADA) Tel: 583-2999

FUNDACION

Respetami
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Diabetic Foundation
 Arubano

Tel: 583-3808
 Narcotics Anonymous
 Tel: 583-8989

Foundation Amor
 pa Prohimo
 Tel: 583-3345 /586-6976

Women in Difficulties
 Foundation
 Tel: 583-5400

Bloodbank Aruba
 Tel: 587-0002



How deep can a fish go? Scientists may have answer

NICK PERRY

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand

(AP) — They may look like guts stuffed in cellophane, but five fish hauled up from near-record depths off the coast of New Zealand are providing scientists with new insights into how deep fish can survive. In a paper published this week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, scientists from the U.S., Britain and New Zealand describe catching translucent hadal snailfish at a depth of 7 kilometers (4.3 miles).

By measuring levels of a compound in the fish that helps offset the effects of pressure, the scientists say they've concluded that fish likely can't survive below about 8,200 meters (5.1 miles).

That would mean no fish at all live in the deepest one-quarter of the world's oceans.

The snailfish have little pigmentation due to the lack of light in their environment, hence their translucent appearance.

New Zealand marine ecologist Ashley Rowden, a co-author of the paper,



This photo taken in late 2011 and released by University of Aberdeen, shows a hadal snailfish that was caught in a trap at a depth of 7,000 meters in the Kermadec Trench near New Zealand. Scientists say the snailfish are providing new insights into how deep fish can survive.

Associated Press

scientific certainty.

The fish are the second-deepest recorded catch. In 1970, a boat off the coast of Chile reported catching a cusk eel at a depth of 8,370 meters in a trawl net, although questions remain whether that fish was caught at the ocean floor or higher up as the net was hauled in.

The paper's lead author, Paul Yancey of Whitman College in Washington state, said they were able to measure the levels in the fish of trimethylamine oxide, a molecule that protects proteins from pressure. He said there appears to be a natural limit to the amount of the molecule a fish can contain.

Yancey said the molecule is already being studied for its human applications, including in the treatment of glaucoma.

Meanwhile, he said, if the hadal snailfish look strange enough, they would smell terrible when they decompose. That, he said, is because the molecule has another property — it gives fish their distinctive smell, so the deeper they live, the stronger they stink.

Yancey is keeping his snailfish on ice. □

Classifieds

RED/WEEK Resales

Eagle Beach Front

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said nobody had caught a snailfish in nearly 60 years and so he wasn't overly hopeful when they sent down a box-like trap into the Kermadec Trench near New Zealand in late 2011. He said they used mackerel as bait to attract the small sandhopper-like creatures the snailfish feed upon.

"When it came up, it was just amazing to see. It was 'Oh my God, we've got the fish, and we've got more than one,'" Rowden said.

Rowden said he put on

gloves and carefully picked up one of the fish.

"It was like a water-filled condom," he said. "A sloppy, gelatinous mass that moves between your hands. It was very cool, and very strange to see its organs and everything."

Rowden, who works at New Zealand's National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, said scientists had previously speculated fish couldn't live below certain depths but that catching the fish and studying them helped provide more

Giant virus revived after more than 30,000 years



This electron microscope image provided by researchers in March 2014 shows a section of a Pithovirus particle, dark outline, inside an infected Acanthamoeba castellanii cell.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Researchers have revived a giant virus more than 30,000 years old, recovered from the permafrost

of northeast Siberia.

The virus poses no threat to people. Although it is considered a giant when compared to other viruses, it is

microscopic and infects amoebas.

The one from Siberia is a new kind of giant virus, joining a group that was first discovered 10 years ago.

The researchers said their finding suggests that dangerous germs might emerge in the future as permafrost thaws because of global warming or mineral exploration. They said sampling permafrost to look for ancient viruses that infect amoebas is an inexpensive and safe way to assess that potential threat.

The new work was reported Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. □

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In this Dec. 12, 2013, file photo, talk show host Conan O'Brien arrives for the Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences awards in Moffett Field, Calif. O'Brien announced Tuesday, March 4, 2014, on his TBS talk show "Conan" that he's hosting this year's MTV Movie Awards.

Associated Press

Conan O'Brien to host MTV Movie Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Conan O'Brien will be serving up buckets of golden popcorn.

O'Brien announced Tuesday on his TBS talk show "Conan" that he's hosting this year's MTV Movie Awards. The annual movie celebration that honors winners with golden popcorn trophies is scheduled for April 13 at the Nokia Theatre in downtown Los Angeles.

"After eight years of intense negotiations, I am honored to announce I am hosting MTV's second most prestigious awards show," O'Brien joked in a statement.

It marks the first time O'Brien has hosted the MTV Movie Awards. He previously hosted the Primetime Emmy Awards in 2002 and 2006.

Past hosts of the MTV Movie Awards have included Jimmy Fallon, Aziz Ansari, Russell Brand, Rebel Wilson and Sarah Silverman. □

Stars line up to pay tribute to Dr. John



This Aug. 3, 2012 file photo shows Mac Rebennack, in his stage persona as Dr. John during the opening night of the Newport Jazz Festival in Newport, R.I.

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Stars including Gregg Allman, Mavis Staples and Allen Toussaint have signed on to a special tribute concert to musician Dr. John.

"The Musical Mojo of Dr.

John: A Celebration of Mac & His Music" is set for May 3 at the Saenger Theatre in New Orleans.

The concert will be Dr. John's only appearance during the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival.

Also slated to perform for and with the Grammy Award-winning Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member are Widespread Panic, Lucinda Williams, Ryan Bingham, The Blind Boys of Alabama and fellow Louisiana musicians like Cyril Neville, Zigaboo Modeliste and Chief Monk Boudreaux.

Performances will be recorded and released at a later date. Tickets go on sale Monday. □

NY Times prints Northup correction 161 years later



This film publicity image released by Fox Searchlight shows Chiwetel Ejiofor as Solomon Northup in a scene from "12 Years A Slave."

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Times has printed a correction for misspelling 161 years ago the name of a black man who was sold into slavery and whose memoirs were turned into the Oscar-winning movie "12 Years a Slave."

In a Jan. 20, 1853, article, the Times misspelled Solomon Northup's surname as Northrop and as Northrup.

The Times corrected Northup's name on Tuesday, after the errors were pointed out by someone looking at its archives.

The correction said the article about Northup had "misspelled his surname as Northrop."

And the headline misspelled it as Northrup."

Northup was born in New York and was kidnapped

and sold as a slave in 1841. He spent the next dozen years in Louisiana before regaining his freedom.

"12 Years a Slave" won the Oscar for best picture at the Academy Awards on Sunday. It starred Chiwetel Ejiofor as Northup and Lupita Nyong'o as Patsey, another slave. Nyong'o won the Oscar for best actress in a supporting role. □

First lady bringing soul singers to White House



First lady Michelle Obama speaks in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014, about helping parents and other consumers make healthier choices as part of her Let's Move program.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — First lady Michelle Obama is bringing together an impressive group of female

artists for a White House concert celebrating women of soul.

The lineup for Thursday's

concert includes Aretha Franklin, Patti LaBelle, Melissa Etheridge and Janelle Monae (Moe-NAY'). Also performing will be Tessa (tess-ANN') Chin, Ariana Grande (GRON'-day) and Jill Scott.

The show will be streamed live Thursday night on the White House web site, and broadcast April 7th on PBS stations as "Women of Soul: In Performance at the White House."

It is designed to celebrate what the White House describes as great "foremothers" of American music, with songs exploring the struggles and achievements of women. □

Idina Menzel, 'Frozen' heat up pop charts

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Tony-winning Idina Menzel — or Adele Dazeem if you're John Travolta — is enjoying massive success with "Let It Go" from the animated film "Frozen," but the entertainer is still perplexed that she's finally triumphing on the pop charts with a show tune-esque track.

"I've had a lot of self-inspection about this. This business is so hard, especially the music business, and I've tried so hard to crossover, to convince people just because I was in a Broadway show I didn't have the street cred to be a rock or a pop singer," she said in a recent interview. "And then the one time I have it, it's the arrangement from the Disney movie."

"I'm singing at the Oscars — I've never sang at the Grammys," Menzel added, laughing.

Menzel's musical moment grew even stronger when "Let It Go" won best original song at Sunday's Academy Awards (the Oscar went to the songwriters and producers, Robert Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez). The song has sold close to 1.5 million tracks and is a Top 20 hit on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. The "Frozen" album, a platinum



Tony Award winning actress, singer and Oscar-Nominated songwriter, Idina Menzel, who will perform the hit song "Let It Go" from the "Frozen" soundtrack at the Academy Awards, poses for a portrait, on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2014 in New York.

Associated Press

success, is the soundtrack to spend the most time at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart with five weeks and counting; it recently beat the record set by the "Titanic" soundtrack, which featured Celine Dion's epic, Oscar-winning "My Heart Will Go On."

"I've had ups and downs ... and I'm aware of when something's happening and has an energy of its own," said Menzel, who voices the lead character Elsa in the film, which won the best animated feature

Oscar. "I'm aware enough to know of something special and to try and be in the moment."

Menzel is having more than a moment in music though, thanks to Travolta, who uttered "Adele Dazeem" at the Oscars instead the singer's name. He has since apologized.

But Slate magazine created the ultrapopular "Travoltified" tool, where you can put in your name and see what Travolta would call you, and it has been dominating on Facebook

and Twitter this week (side note: Travolta would call himself "Jan Thozomas.") But after that fades, Menzel still has "Let It Go," which is having a pop culture moment because of the thousands of videos posted of young girls and boys — and some adults — singing covers of the song. Cutely, Menzel took her younger sister, a second grade teacher, to the Oscars as her date ("Frozen" is about two sisters who are best friends, but have to keep distance because of Elsa's

uncontrollable powers). Menzel's song has even eclipsed Demi Lovato's version of "Let It Go" — technically the "single version." Disney Music Group president Ken Blunt said he's not surprised Menzel's song has become more successful commercially, and adds that the soundtrack is a winner because the film plays like a cartoon musical.

"The songs are part of the storytelling. They're helping to tell the story of the film and I think that's different then what we've seen in the last 15-plus years in animated movies," Blunt said. Menzel, who has released three albums, said some members of her team want her to capitalize on her recent pop star fame: "I'd like to, but also, that's the trap."

"Like, 'I better get in there and oh, make an album now. I have some success and attention,'" she recalled.

The 42-year-old does plan to record more music, but right now she's focused on "If/Then," the new Broadway musical she stars in. She will play the role of Elizabeth, a women returning to New York City to rebuild her life after a divorce, and she's been rehearsing for weeks at the Richard Rodgers Theatre. □



Kristin Chenoweth arrives at the Oscars on Sunday, March 2, 2014, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

JOHN CARUCCI

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Kristin Chenoweth is ready to tell

the world she suffers from asthma. The Tony-winning actress says she's suffered with the respiratory disorder

Kristin Chenoweth says she suffers from asthma

der for more than a decade, noticing it sometime after the 9/11 terror attacks on lower Manhattan.

"I haven't really discussed the fact that I do suffer from asthma," Chenoweth told The Associated Press last week. "I kept getting sick and couldn't figure out why I couldn't get my breath... that's kind of my asthma journey, if you will." But Chenoweth was not correctly diagnosed for a few years. The entire time she did the smash Broadway musical, "Wicked,"

when she originated the role of Glinda, she thought she was suffering from bronchitis and other respiratory issues.

"It was only after going to L.A. to do 'Bewitched,' and 'The West Wing' that I really got sick. But I wasn't diagnosed with asthma," Chenoweth recalls. "It wasn't until I was doing the television series, 'Pushing Daisies,' that my doctor in Oklahoma diagnosed me." Her doctor told her she needed to carry an inhaler at all times so she could

breathe. That diagnosis has changed her life, as well as affecting her confidence. When she last appeared on Broadway in the 2010 revival of "Promises, Promises," Chenoweth recalls a scary encounter.

"I was onstage, literally in the second act in a pretty dramatic scene, I can literally feel it coming on, and I remember thinking, 'How am I going to deal with it? How am I going to get my breath? How am I going to get offstage? How am I going to get to my inhaler?'" □

The Inflation Obsession



PAUL KRUGMAN
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Recently the Federal Reserve released transcripts of its monetary policy meetings during the fateful year of 2008. And boy, are they discouraging reading. Partly that's because Fed officials come across as essentially clueless about the gathering economic storm. But we knew that already. What's really striking is the extent to which they were obsessed with the wrong thing. The economy was plunging, yet all many people at the Fed wanted to talk about was inflation.

Matthew O'Brien at The Atlantic has done the math. In August 2008 there were 322 mentions of inflation, versus only 28 of unemployment and 19 of systemic risks or crises. In the meeting on Sept. 16, 2008 - the day after Lehman fell! - there were 129 mentions of inflation, versus 26 mentions of unemployment and only four of systemic risks or crises.

Historians of the Great Depression have long marveled at the folly of policy discussion at the time. For example, the Bank of England, faced with a devastating deflationary spiral, kept obsessing over the imagined threat of inflation. As the economist Ralph Hawtrey famously observed, "That was to cry 'Fire, fire!' in Noah's flood." But it turns out that modern monetary officials facing financial crisis were just as obsessed with the wrong thing as their predecessors three generations before.

And it wasn't just a bad call in 2008. Much supposedly informed opinion has remained fixated on the supposed threat of rising prices despite being wrong again and again. If you spent the last five years watching CNBC, or reading The Wall Street Journal opinion pages, or for that matter listening to prominent conservative economists, you lived in a constant state of alarm over runaway inflation, which was coming any day now. It never did.

What accounts for inflation obsession? One answer is that obsessives failed to distinguish between underlying inflation and short-term fluctuations in the headline number, which are mainly driven by volatile energy and food prices. Gasoline prices, in particular, strongly influence inflation in any given year, and dire warnings are heard whenever prices rise at the

pump; yet such blips say nothing at all about future inflation. They also failed to understand that printing money in a depressed economy isn't inflationary. I could have told them that, and in fact I did. But maybe there was some excuse for not grasping this point in 2008 or early 2009.

The point, however, is that inflation obsession has persisted, year after year, even as events have refuted its supposed justifications. And this tells us that something more than bad analysis is at work. At a fundamental level, it's political.

This is fairly obvious if you look at who the inflation obsessives are. While a few conservatives believe that the Fed should be doing more, not less, they have little if any real influence. The overall picture is that most conservatives are inflation obsessives, and nearly all inflation obsessives are conservative.

Why is this the case? In part it reflects the belief that the government should never seek to mitigate economic pain, because the private sector always knows best. Back in the 1930s, Austrian economists like Friedrich Hayek and Joseph Schumpeter inveighed against any effort to fight the depression with easy money; to do so, warned Schumpeter, would be to leave "the work of depressions undone." Modern conservatives are generally less open about the harshness of their view, but it's pretty much the same.

The flip side of this anti-government attitude is the conviction that any attempt to boost the economy, whether fiscal or monetary, must produce disastrous results - Zimbabwe, here we come! And this conviction is so strong that it persists no matter how wrong it has been, year after year.

Finally, all this ties in with a predilection for acting tough and inflicting punishment whatever the economic conditions. The British journalist William Keegan once described this as "sado-monetarism," and it's very much alive today.

Does any of this matter? It's true that the Fed hasn't surrendered to the sado-monetarists. Notably, it didn't panic in 2011, when another blip in gasoline prices briefly raised the headline rate of inflation, and Republicans began inveighing against the "debasement" of the dollar.

But I'd argue that the clamor from inflation obsessives has intimidated the Fed, which might otherwise have done more. And it has also been part of a general climate of opposition to anything that might address our continuing jobs crisis.

As I suggested, we used to marvel at the wrongheadedness of policymakers during the Great Depression. But when the Great Recession struck, and we were given a chance to do better, we ended up repeating all the same mistakes. □



Fisherman's Friend

Why Putin Doesn't Respect Us



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
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Just as we've turned the coverage of politics into sports, we're doing the same with geopolitics. There is much nonsense being written about how Vladimir Putin showed how he is "tougher" than Barack Obama and how Obama now needs to demonstrate his manhood. This is how great powers get drawn into the politics of small tribes and end up in great wars that end badly for everyone. We vastly exaggerate Putin's strength - so does he - and we vastly underestimate our own strength and ability to weaken him through nonmilitary means.

Let's start with Putin. Any man who actually believes, as Putin has said, that the breakup of the Soviet Union was "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe" of the 20th century is caught up in a dangerous fantasy that can't end well for him or his people. The Soviet Union died because Communism could not provide rising standards of living, and its collapse actually unleashed boundless human energy all across Eastern Europe and Russia.

A wise Putin would have redesigned Russia so its vast human talent could take advantage of all that energy. He would be fighting today to get Russia into the European Union, not to keep Ukraine out. But that is not who Putin is and never will be. He is guilty of the soft bigotry of low expectations toward his people and prefers to turn Russia into a mafia-run petro-state - all the better to steal from.

So Putin is now fighting human nature among his own young people and his neighbors - who both want more EU and less Putinism. To put it in market terms, Putin is long oil and short history. He has made himself steadily richer and Russia steadily more reliant on natural resources rather than its human ones. History will not be kind to him - especially if energy prices ever collapse. So spare me the Putin-body-slammed-Obama prattle. This isn't All-Star Wrestling. The fact that Putin has seized Crimea, a Russian-speaking zone of Ukraine, once part of Russia, where many of the citizens prefer to be part of Russia and where Russia has a major naval base, is not like taking Poland. I support economic and diplomatic sanctions to punish Russia for its violation of international norms and making clear that harsher sanctions, even military aid for Kiev, would ensue should Putin try to bite off more of Ukraine. But we need to remember that little corner of the world is always going to mean more, much more, to Putin than to us, and we should refrain from making threats on which we're not going to deliver.

What disturbs me about Crimea is the larger trend it fits into, that Putinism used to just be a threat to Russia but is now becoming a threat to global stability. I opposed expanding NATO toward Russia after the Cold War, when Russia was at its most democratic and least threatening. It remains one of the dumbest things we've ever done and, of course, laid the groundwork for Putin's rise. For a long time, Putin has exploited the humiliation and anti-Western attitudes NATO expansion triggered to gain popularity, but this seems to have become so fundamental to his domestic politics that it has locked him into a zero-sum relationship with the West that makes it hard to see how we collaborate with him in more serious trouble spots, like Syria or Iran. President Bashar Assad of Syria is engaged in monstrous,

genocidal behavior that also threatens the stability of the Middle East. But Putin stands by him. At least half the people of Ukraine long to be part of Europe, but he treated that understandable desire as a NATO plot and quickly resorted to force.

I don't want to go to war with Putin, but it is time we expose his real weakness and our real strength. That, though, requires a long-term strategy - not just fulminating on "Meet the Press." It requires going after the twin pillars of his regime: oil and gas. Just as the oil glut of the 1980s, partly engineered by the Saudis, brought down global oil prices to a level that helped collapse Soviet Communism, we could do the same today to Putinism by putting the right long-term policies in place. That is by investing in the facilities to liquefy and export our natural gas bounty (provided it is extracted at the highest environmental standards) and making Europe, which gets 30 percent of its gas from Russia, more dependent on us instead. I'd also raise our gasoline tax, put in place a carbon tax and a national renewable energy portfolio standard - all of which would also help lower the global oil price (and make us stronger, with cleaner air, less oil dependence and more innovation).

You want to frighten Putin? Just announce those steps. But you know the story, the tough guys in Washington who want to take on Putin would rather ask 1 percent of Americans - the military and their families - to make the ultimate sacrifice than have all of us make a small sacrifice in the form of tiny energy price increases. Those tough guys who thump their chests in Congress but run for the hills if you ask them to vote for a 10-cent increase in the gasoline tax that would actually boost our leverage, they'll never rise to this challenge. We'll do anything to expose Putin's weakness; anything that isn't hard. And you wonder why Putin holds us in contempt? □

BOWL FOOD

PETE WELLS

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NEW YORK - The first rule of the serious ramen hunter: Look everywhere, even in places that don't look like ramen shops. This is how, in January, I found myself inhaling noodles at a cluster of tables shoved into the center of a bagel shop in Queens.

This was Mu Ramen, Joshua and Heidi Smookler's floating restaurant, which has already sailed on from the bagel shop and is now docking in various locations until it establishes a permanent mooring in the neighborhood later this year. The bamboo is fresh and sweetly crisp; the spoons are ceramic; the tables are set with pots of fermented mustard greens with chili flakes and habaneros.

The rumors were true: This movable ramen shop was already near the top in a very competitive field.

Ten years ago, when you told New Yorkers you were going to eat Japanese noodles, nearly everyone pictured soba. When you say it now, half your friends will ask which ramen-ya is your favorite and the other half will be in line in front of you.

The ramen belt, once tightly buckled around the East Village, now loops from Fort Lee, N.J., to Queens and Brooklyn. New shops set up business behind foggy windows every few weeks, some run by operators straight from Japan, some by U.S.-born chefs versed in the occult arts of chashu and tonkotsu. Noodle fanatics share their sightings of new mutant variants and hoard secret addresses for after-midnight slurping.

The shift from soba connoisseurship to ramen mania is so thorough it can't be called a trend anymore. It embodies bigger changes in the way New Yorkers eat.

The closest rival to the ramen bliss Mu offered in-



Danny Anders and Angel Zhao eat late-night ramen at Takashi, one of the many unconventional new places to grab a bowl in ramen-obsessed New York. Takashi, a Japanese-Korean barbecue grill, is wholly dedicated to beef, replacing beef belly in place of pork.

(Evan Sung/The New York Times)

side a bagel shop was at a counter inside a food hall in Hell's Kitchen, Gotham West Market: Ivan Ramen Slurp Shop is exceptional, serving scaldingly hot, deeply flavorful broths with noodles that get their satisfying heartiness from rye

flour.

It's getting hard to keep track of all the ramen shops that, like Mu, camp out inside other businesses. A sushi place has been playing host to Benkei Ramen after midnights and on Sunday evenings since last year.

Early reports were enthusiastic, but my tonkotsu ramen was a near miss.

The late-night ramen in an empty sushi bar to beat remains Ramen Sanshiro. For the past few years, midtown Manhattan noodle watchers have waited for

the red paper lantern that sways from the awning of Restaurant SEO after 11 p.m. The shio ramen there is somewhat lean, but makes up for it with a bright, unusually pure chicken-soup flavor.

The last stop on my ramen hunt was in the sunny, orderly dining room of Kajitsu, where ramen is served only at lunch. Ryota Ueshima, the chef, prepares traditional Japanese shojin cuisine, which does not include animals and the ingredients they give us. There are no pork bones in the ramen broth and no sliced pork on top of the noodles, although there is wheat gluten in pork drag. (It almost passes until you taste it.)

The other garnishes had more to offer, like unexpectedly savory tree ear mushrooms and fresh bamboo even crisper and sweeter than Mu's. Kajitsu upended all my assumptions about ramen except the most basic one: look everywhere. In New York, the hunt is getting interesting. □



The classic shoyu ramen made at Ivan Ramen Slurp Shop, inside a food court in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of New York. Ivan Ramen, which will soon open a flagship location, is one of many standout ramen haunts operating out of other businesses in noodle-mad New York.

(Brent Herrig/The New York Times)